



FEB.
NO. 199

BATMAN

QUICK! LET ME
HAVE A COPY OF
BATMAN COMICS!

IT'S A MATTER OF
LIFE OR DEATH--
MINE!

TOO LATE,
BATMAN!
I'M ALL SOLD
OUT!



THEY LEAPED FROM THE
PAGES OF A **BATMAN**
MAGAZINE, DEADLY
DESPERADOES BEARING
LETHAL RINGS TO DESTROY
THE **DYNAMIC DUO!**
JUST ONE SOCK--EVEN
A GLANCING BLOW--
WOULD BE THE TOUCH
OF DEATH!

PERIL OF THE POISON RINGS!

With **ROBIN**
THE BOY WONDER

BOB
KANE

THIS IS ONE TIME WE DON'T MIND
FIGHTIN' IT OUT WITH **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN!**

ALL WE HAVE
TO DO IS LAND
A PUNCH ON
EACH OF 'EM--
AND THEY'RE
DEAD!

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ONE BLUSTERY NIGHT IN MARCH, SOME EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, A RIFLE SHOT RANG OUT ACROSS GOTHAM CITY...



WHAT WAS THE TARGET FOR THAT BULLET? A BIRD-- A MAN? NO! STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT WAS A TELEVISION AERIAL!...



NOW--WHEN MILLIONAIRE WILLIAM NORWOOD TELEPHONES FOR A TELEVISION REPAIR MAN--WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ACCOMODATE HIM!

A TAPPED TELEPHONE CALL--AND OUT OF A GARAGE SPED A TV-SERVICE TRUCK BOUND FOR THE NORWOOD ESTATE ALONG MILLIONAIRE'S MILE...



RAPID-FIRE SERVICE--THAT'S US!

NORWOOD WILL BE SURPRISED TO SEE US SHOW UP SO SOON!

BUT NOT NEARLY AS SURPRISED AS WHEN WE LEAVE--TAKING HIS TREASURES WITH US!

THE NORWOOD PLACE IS SO LOADED WITH BURGLAR ALARMS AND OTHER SECRET CRIME-PREVENTION DEVICES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK INTO IT!

BUT THANKS TO MY CLEVER PLAN, NORWOOD HIMSELF WILL USHER US INTO HIS HOME!



SUDDENLY--AN UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT--FRAUGHT WITH DANGER! THE TELEVISION TRUCK SPED PAST THE CRUISING BATMOBILE...



SOMETHING WRONG, ROBIN!

HUH? WRONG WITH WHAT, BATMAN?

THE BATMOBILE MADE A QUICK U-TURN...

THAT TELEVISION REPAIR TRUCK!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT'S LICENSE PLATE?

I SAW THE TRUCK-- BUT DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS!

SURE! IT HAD AN M-PLATE AND-- HEY! NOW I GET IT!



JUST AS ALL DOCTORS' CARS IN GOTHAM CITY CARRY PLATES WITH MD, AND TAXIS WITH THE INITIAL O--SO TV REPAIR TRUCKS HAVE THE LETTERS TV ON THEIR PLATES!

AND THAT TRUCK-- DIDN'T! WE'RE BACK-TRACKING TO FIND OUT WHY!

AHEAD OF THE ONCOMING BATMOBILE, THE REPAIR TRUCK PULLED UP TO A GATEHOUSE FRONTING THE NORWOOD ESTATE DRIVE...

GOTHAM TELEVISION SERVICE! MR. NORWOOD JUST CALLED!

JUST A MOMENT! I'LL CALL THE HOUSE AND CHECK YOU OUT!



YOU EXPECTING A TELEVISION REPAIRMAN, MR. NORWOOD?

YES, EDWARDS! PASS HIM THROUGH THE GATE!



AT THE MANSION DOORWAY, MOMENTS LATER...

GOOD OF YOU TO RESPOND SO QUICKLY-- OHH!

OUTTA THE WAY, NORWOOD! WE GOT A JOB TO DO-- AND WE DON'T MEAN A TV REPAIR!



WE PICKED THE SERVANTS' NIGHT OUT--SO NOBODY'D INTERFERE!

NOW FOR HIS PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ART TREASURES...

EVEN AS WILLIAM NORWOOD COLLAPSED...

OUR UNIFORMS GOT US PAST THE GUARD WITH-OUT ANY TROUBLE!

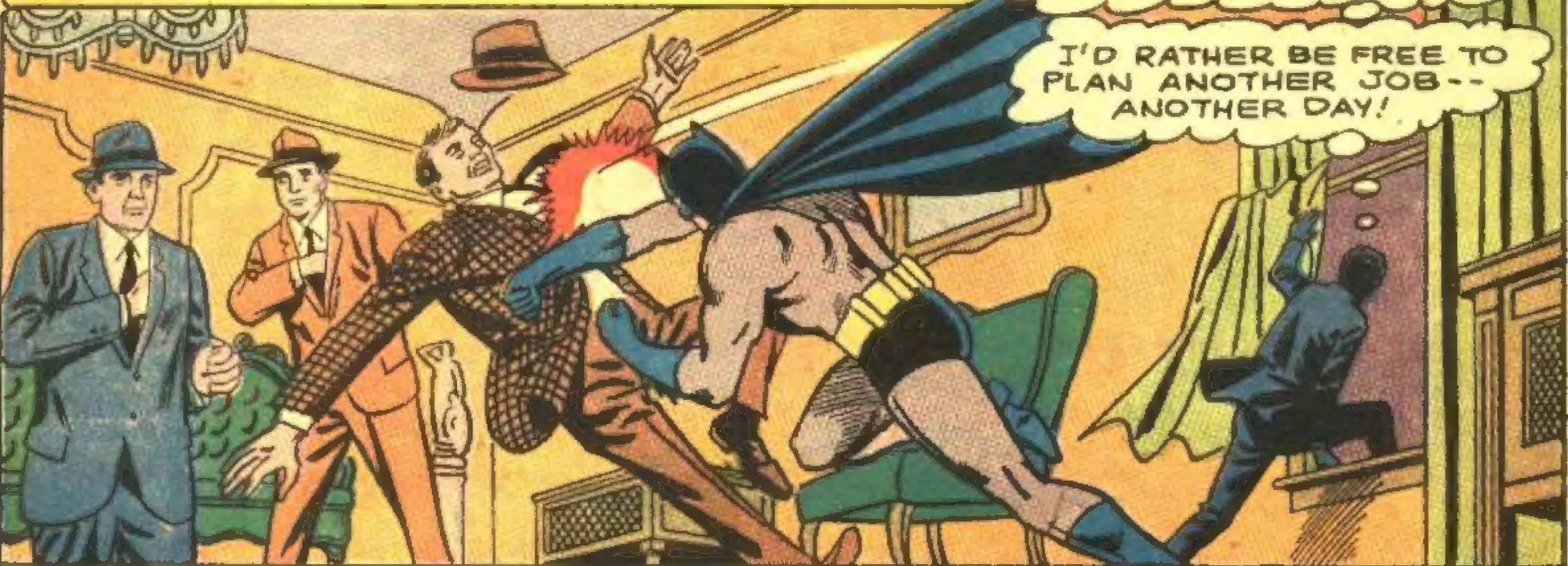
AND TROUBLE IS JUST WHAT STRUCK MR. NORWOOD! LOOK AT HIM--!



AS THE DYNAMIC DUO ERUPTED INTO ACTION- ONE OF THE GANG WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE NEAR A WINDOW...

BATMAN AND ROBIN! CAN'T LET THEM CAPTURE ME!

I'D RATHER BE FREE TO PLAN ANOTHER JOB-- ANOTHER DAY!



AS GANG-GUNS CAME OUT-- ROBIN WENT UP!...

THIS MANEUVER IS JUST FOR KICKS!



AND HERE THEY COME! ONE-- --TWO!



NICE FOOTWORK, ROBIN!

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS!



THIS NECK-LOCK HIP-THROW WILL PUT YOU OUT OF THE ACTION!

GOT BATMAN RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS!



FROM ABOVE, THE **BOY WONDER** DROPPED LIKE A TON OF CEMENT ON THE PRONE MAN...

BATMAN FLOORED THIS THUG--
I'VE FLATTENED HIM!



AS THE LAST HOOD WENT DOWN, THE **MASKED MANHUNTER** RUSHED TO MILLIONAIRE **WILLIAM NORWOOD**...



WHEN THE MILLIONAIRE RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...



WITH A SIGH OF PLEASURE, REMBRANDT DICKENS CLOSES THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE BATMAN MAGAZINE...

AND SO ENDS ANOTHER THRILLING TRUE-CRIME ADVENTURE OF THE CAPED CRUSADER-- WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY THE CROOK WHO "GOT AWAY"-- ME!



AND THAT'S THE WAY I'VE BEEN MAKING MY LIVING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF WHILE YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN SERVING YOUR SENTENCES! THESE TRUE-CRIME COMIC MAGAZINES ABOUT SUPER-HEROES ARE ALL THE RAGE NOW!

MEANWHILE, I SPENT MY SPARE TIME PLANNING SURE-FIRE ROBBERIES!



YOU SURE DID A GREAT JOB, REMBRANDT-- CONSIDERING THAT YOU DUCKED OUT ON THAT NORWOOD JOB JUST AS BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVED!

HOW COME YOU WERE ABLE TO WRITE AND DRAW THOSE FOLLOW-UP FIGHT SCENES SO ACCURATELY?

EASY! BY GETTING MY FACTS FROM POLICE AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS-- AND COURT TRIAL RECORDS!

I DO THE SAME THING IN IVY TOWN WHEN I WRITE ABOUT THE ATOM-- IN METROPOLIS WHEN I DO SUPERMAN-- IN CENTRAL CITY FOR THE FLASH...



-- WHICH I DISCOVERED IS POISONOUS WHEN A CAT LAPPED UP SOME OF THE INK THAT HAD SPILLED! IT DIED IN A FEW HOURS!

ALL OF WHICH GAVE ME A BRILLIANT IDEA! I FASHIONED THREE RINGS TO DEAL OUT POISON DEATHS!



THANKS TO MY NAME, I'M A NATURAL AT DRAWING AND WRITING-- WHICH I DO WITH A "POISON PEN"!

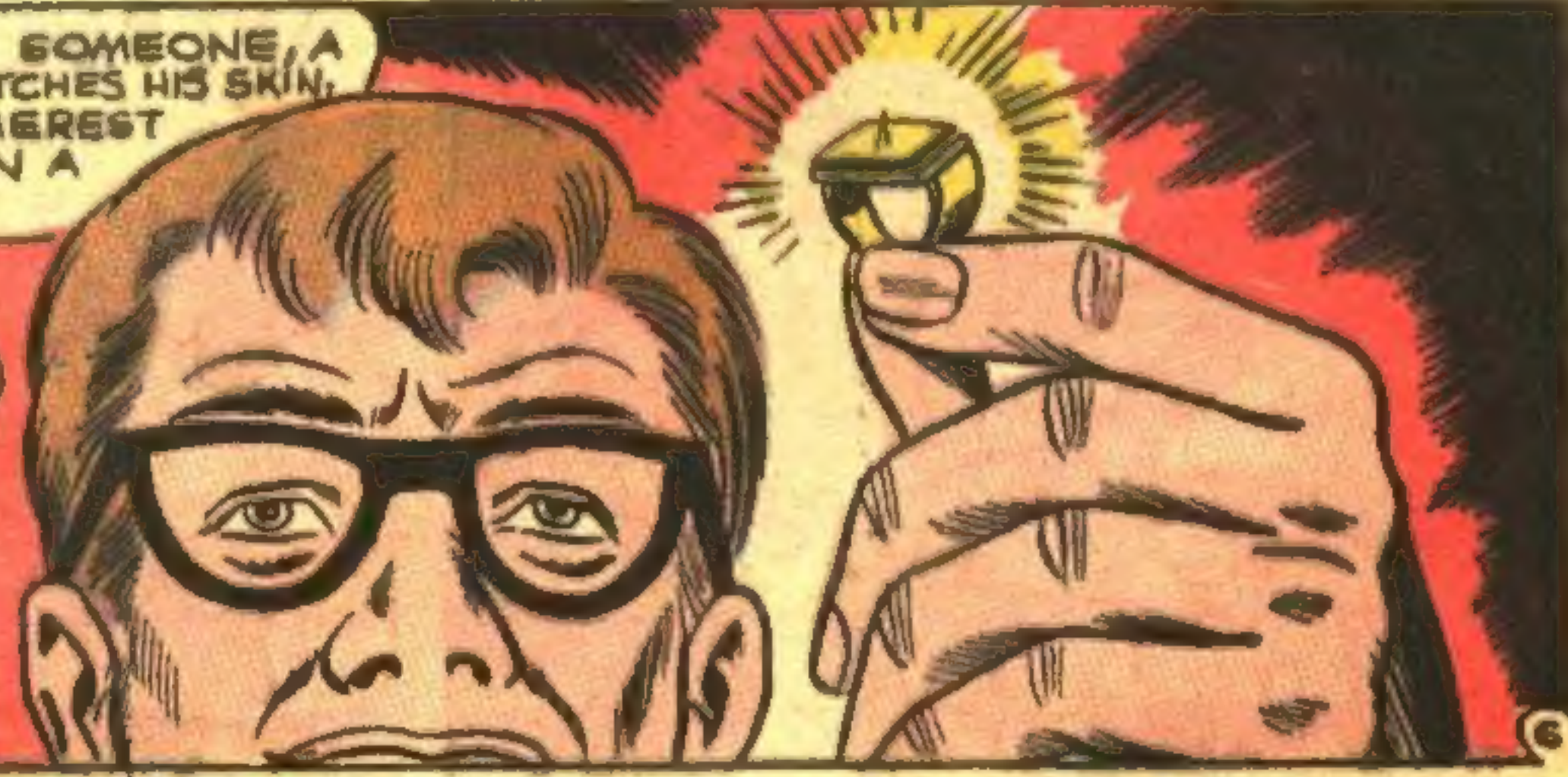
POISON PEN? I DON'T GET YOU, REMBRANDT!

TO GET MORE INTENSE BLACKS WHEN I DRAW, I ADDED CERTAIN CHEMICALS TO THE INK--



WHEN YOUR RING-FINGER HITS SOMEONE, A TINY NEEDLE EJECTS AND SCRATCHES HIS SKIN, INJECTING THE POISON! THE MEREST SCRATCH WILL CAUSE DEATH IN A COUPLE OF HOURS!

BUT YOU'LL RESERVE THESE RINGS FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN-- OUR ONLY POSSIBLE THREATS!



NOT EVEN I AM VAIN ENOUGH NOT TO KNOW--DESPITE THE BEST-LAID CRIMINAL PLANS-- THAT THEY EVENTUALLY WILL SHOW UP AT ONE OF OUR CRIMES!

WHEN THAT HAPPENS... ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MANAGE TO CONNECT WITH A PUNCH--AND **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE GONERS!



I MYSELF WILL NOT BE ON HAND TO SEE THAT FATAL BLOW STRUCK! SINCE MY CLOSE CALL IN THE NORWOOD AFFAIR--I RATHER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCE OF GETTING CAUGHT!

MY FORTE IS PLANNING CRIMES--NOT PULLING THEM!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS THE **BAT-MOBILE** SNEAKS LIKE A STALKING CAT THROUGH THE STREETS OF **GOTHAM CITY**...

SURE IS QUIET TONIGHT, **BATMAN**!

IT'S AS IF ALL NATURE WERE HOLDING ITS BREATH! -- WAITING FOR A STORM TO BREAK!



SUDDENLY-- WITH AN EAR-SHATTERING CLANGOR...

KLAA-AAANG
BOIINGGG
KLUNGGG



WOW! ALL THE BURGLAR ALARMS IN THIS SECTION OF TOWN HAVE GONE OFF AT THE SAME TIME!



AND THERE GOES THE HOT-LINE PHONE TOO!

RRRIINGGG

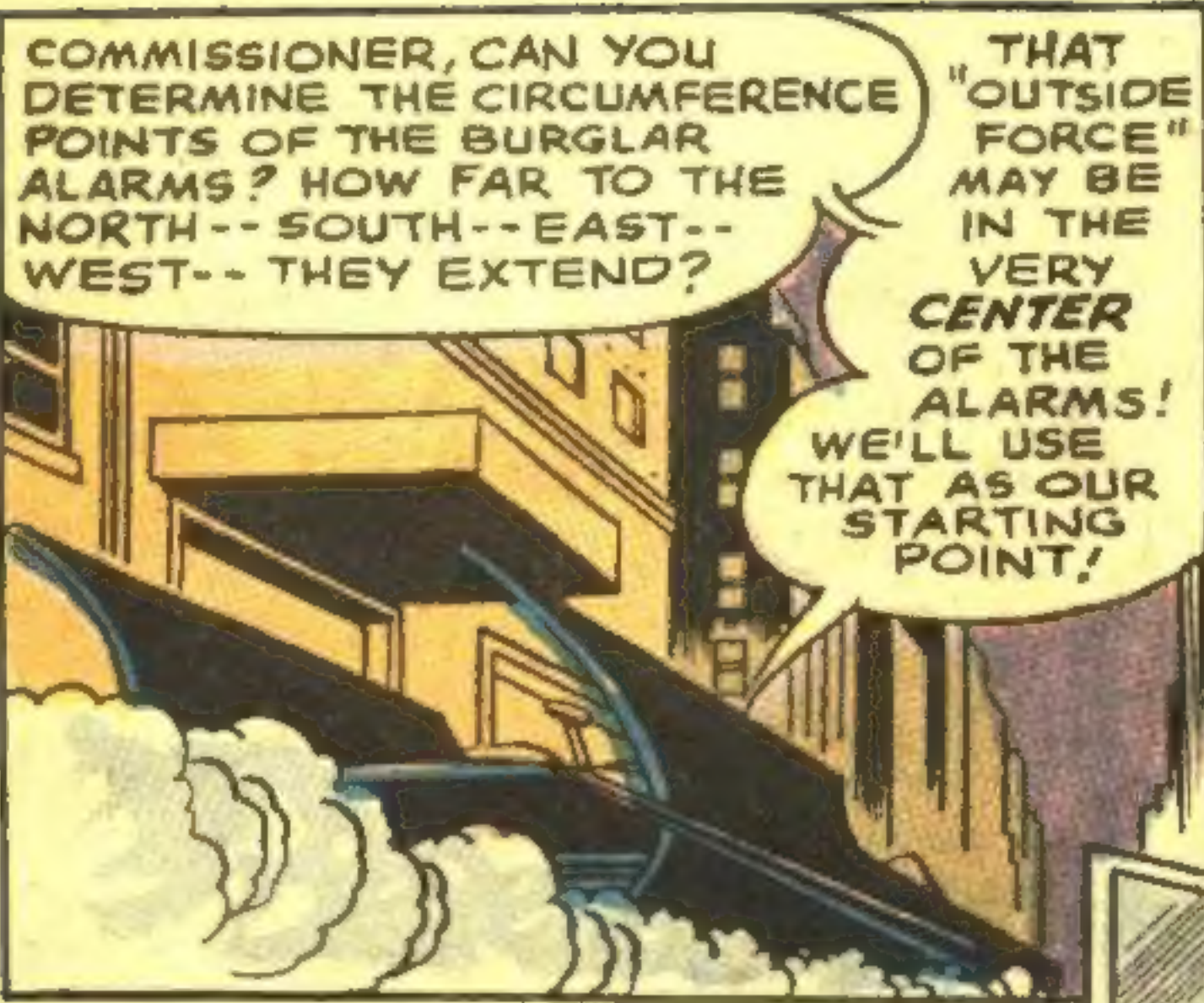


BATMAN, EVERY BURGLAR ALARM WITHIN A THREE-MILE RADIUS HAS BEEN ACTIVATED SIMULTANEOUSLY!

I CAN HEAR THEM, COMMISSIONER!

THEY'RE NOT ON THE SAME ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT--SO SOME OUTSIDE FORCE MUST HAVE SET THEM OFF!





COMMISSIONER, CAN YOU DETERMINE THE CIRCUMFERENCE POINTS OF THE BURGLAR ALARMS? HOW FAR TO THE NORTH-- SOUTH-- EAST-- WEST-- THEY EXTEND?

THAT "OUTSIDE FORCE" MAY BE IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE ALARMS! WE'LL USE THAT AS OUR STARTING POINT!



HERE'S THE INFORMATION YOU ASKED FOR, BATMAN-- IT'S 940 FOSTER SQUARE!

THAT'S THE HOUSE OF CLAY, WHICH DEALS IN RARE AND VALUABLE CERAMIC TREASURES!

INSIDE THE HOUSE OF CLAY...



THE BOSS' IDEA FOR SETTIN' OFF A COUPLE HUNDRED BURGLAR ALARMS ALL AT ONCE WAS A MASTER-PIECE!

YEAH! THE COPS WON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FIRST!



BATMAN AND ROBIN-- AT OUR VERY FIRST CRIME!?

DON'T NOTHIN' EVER STUMP THOSE GUYS?

DON'T PANIC! REMEMBER-- ALL WE GOTTA DO IS LAY A PUNCH ON 'EM!

NEXT INSTANT-- DETERMINED FISTS ARE SWUNG...



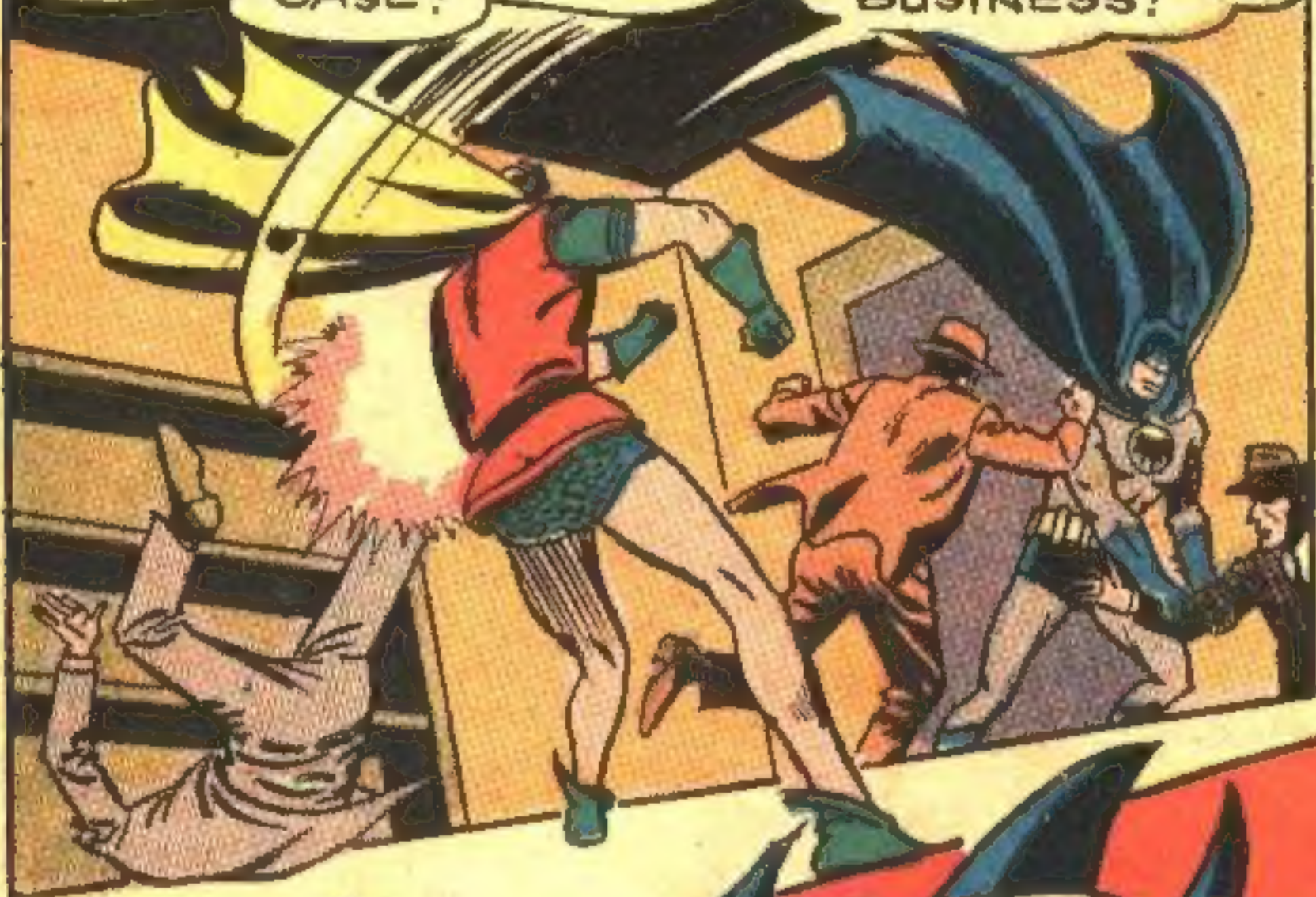
LANDIN' A BLOW ON THESE GUYS AIN'T GONNA BE EASY!

ROBIN-- DO THESE MOBSTERS LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

SWING HIGH, SWING LOW--THOSE LETHAL FISTS ARE ALL OFF TARGET AS...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT-- I *HAVE* SEEN THEM BEFORE-- THE NORWOOD CASE!

THEY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME GETTING BACK INTO BUSINESS!



MAYBE THIS'LL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO NAB THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THEIR GANG...

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY LAST TIME!



JUST ONE GOOD SOCK IS ALL I ASK--
YIII!!



WHERE'S THE REMAINING MEMBER OF YOUR GANG?

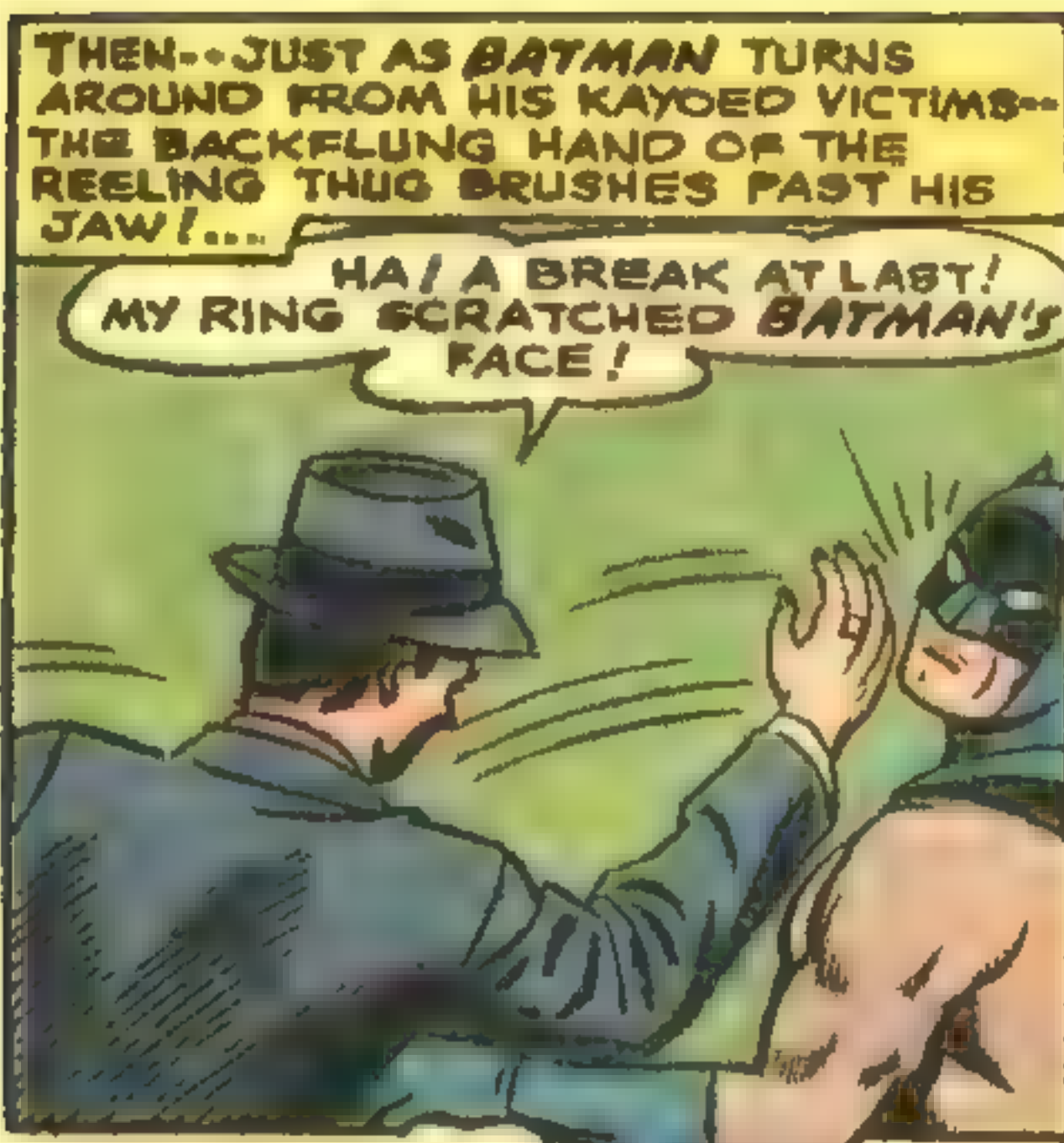


HOW DOES THAT KID DO IT--?

HIT ME SO HARD-- TO SEND ME REELING BACK--WARD--?



CRACK!!



THEN--JUST AS BATMAN TURNS AROUND FROM HIS KAYOED VICTIMS--THE BACKLUNG HAND OF THE REELING THUG BRUSHES PAST HIS JAW!...

HA! A BREAK AT LAST! MY RING SCRATCHED BATMAN'S FACE!



IT'S JUST A HARMLESS SCRATCH...

YOU CAN KEEP THINKING THAT FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, BATMAN--UNTIL YOU DROP DEAD!

THESE RINGS WE WEAR ARE POISONED!

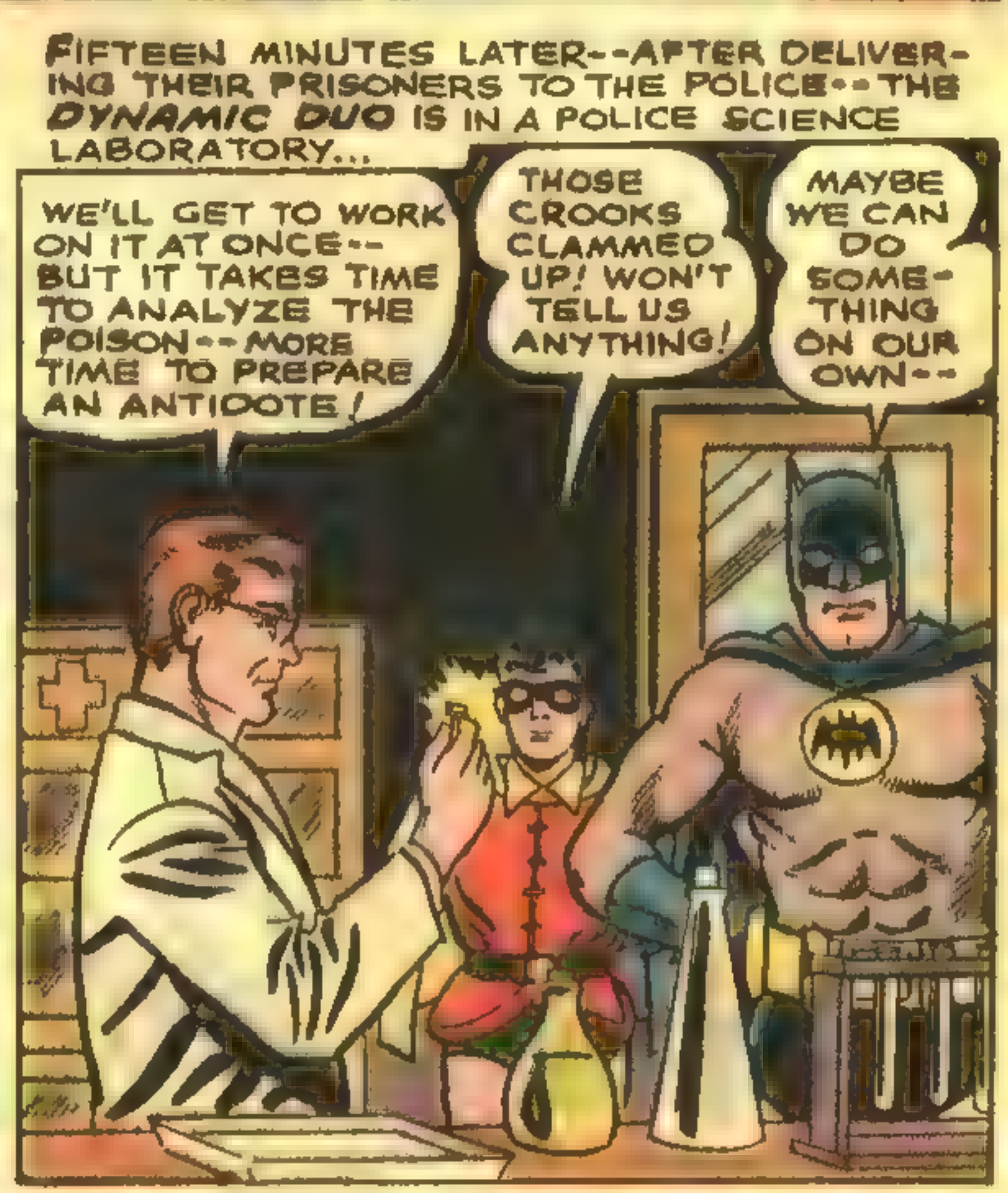
WHAAAT?!



BATMAN-- IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH--

LET'S NOT WASTE TIME, ROBIN-- OR TAKE CHANCES!

REMOVE THEIR RINGS! WE MUST HAVE THAT POISON ANALYZED SO I CAN TAKE AN ANTIDOTE--IF ANY!

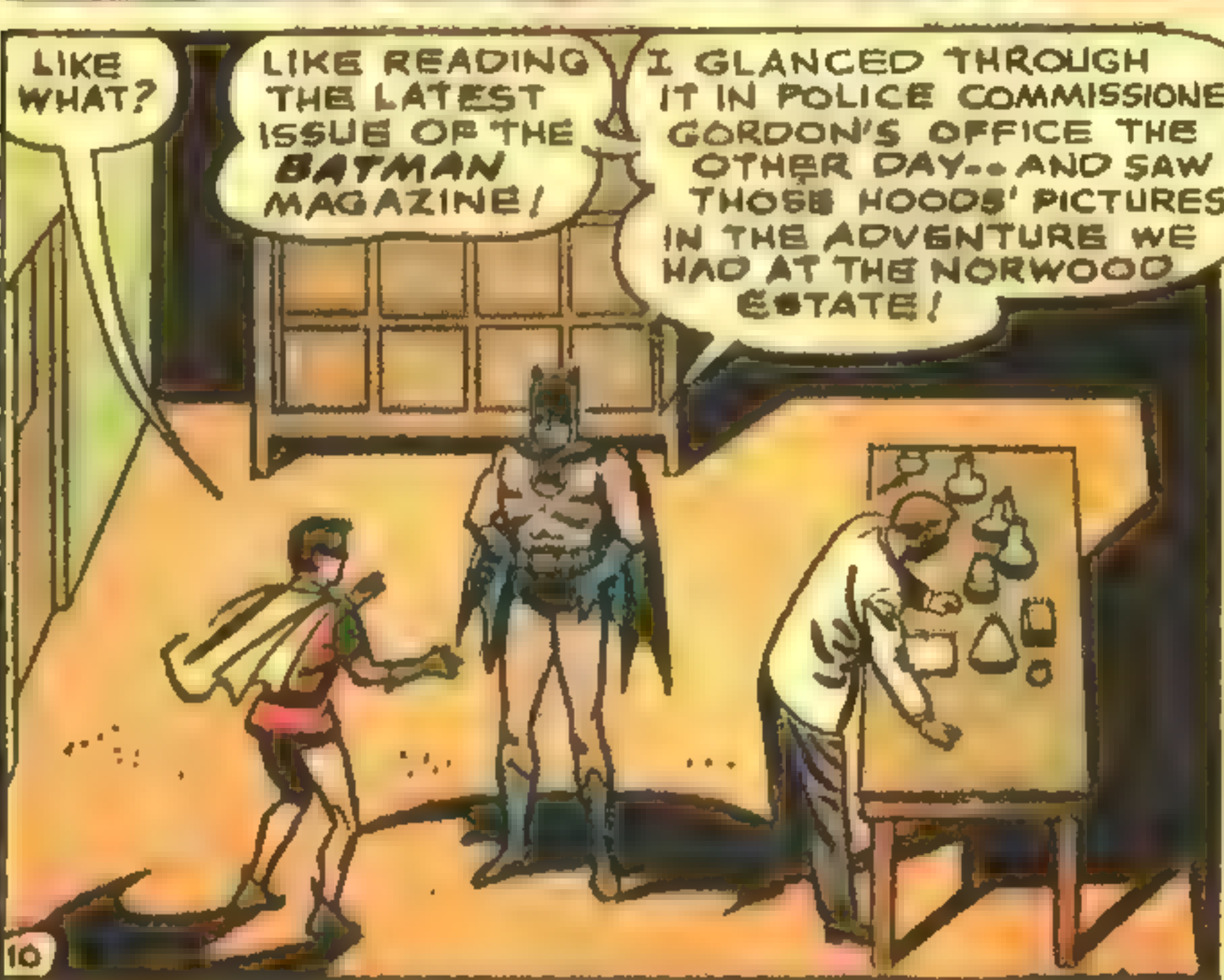


FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER--AFTER DELIVERING THEIR PRISONERS TO THE POLICE--THE DYNAMIC DUO IS IN A POLICE SCIENCE LABORATORY...

WE'LL GET TO WORK ON IT AT ONCE-- BUT IT TAKES TIME TO ANALYZE THE POISON-- MORE TIME TO PREPARE AN ANTIDOTE!

THOSE CROOKS CLAMMED UP! WON'T TELL US ANYTHING!

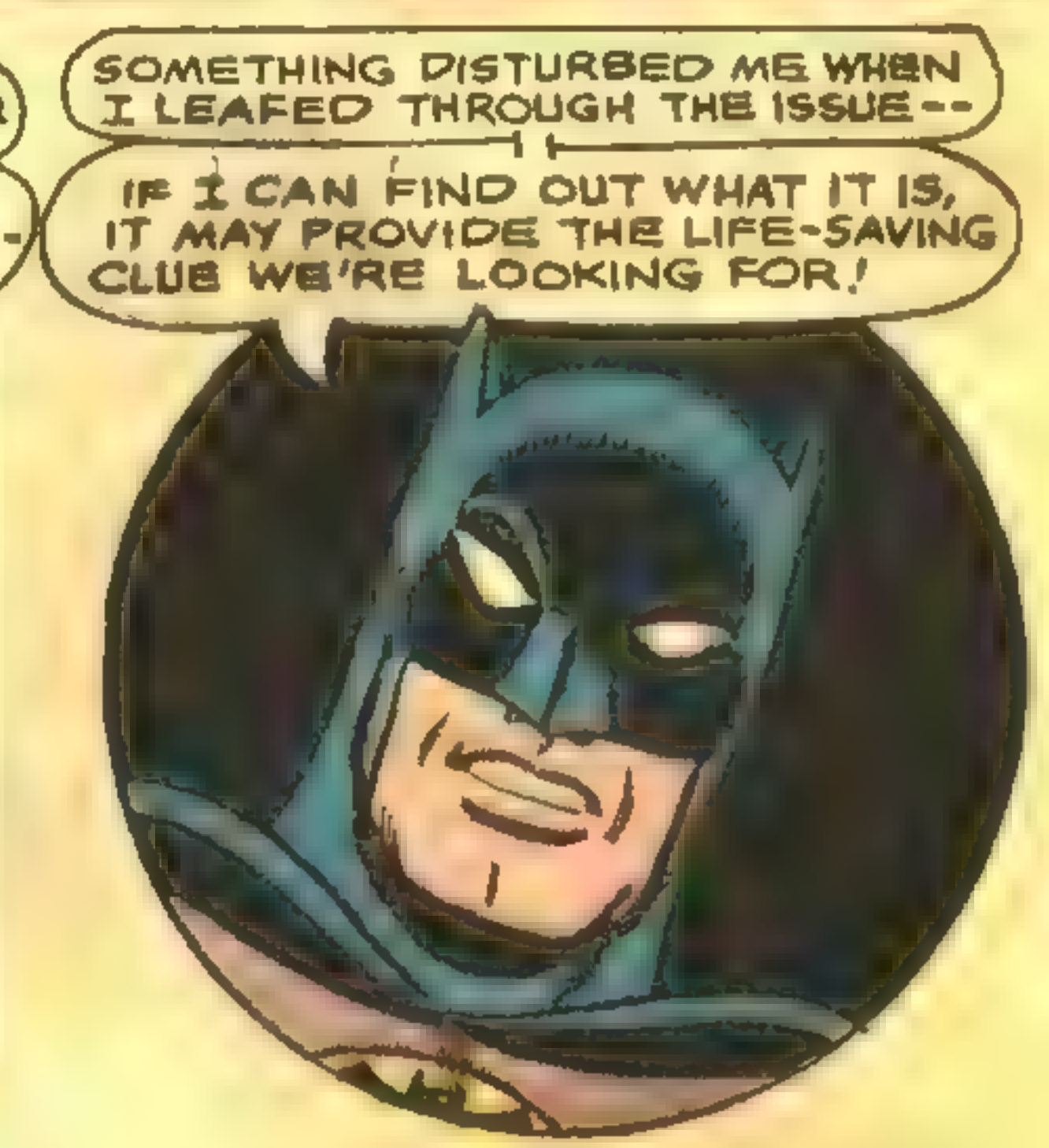
MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING ON OUR OWN--



LIKE WHAT?

LIKE READING THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE BATMAN MAGAZINE!

I GLANCED THROUGH IT IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE THE OTHER DAY-- AND SAW THOSE HOODS' PICTURES-- IN THE ADVENTURE WE HAD AT THE NORWOOD ESTATE!



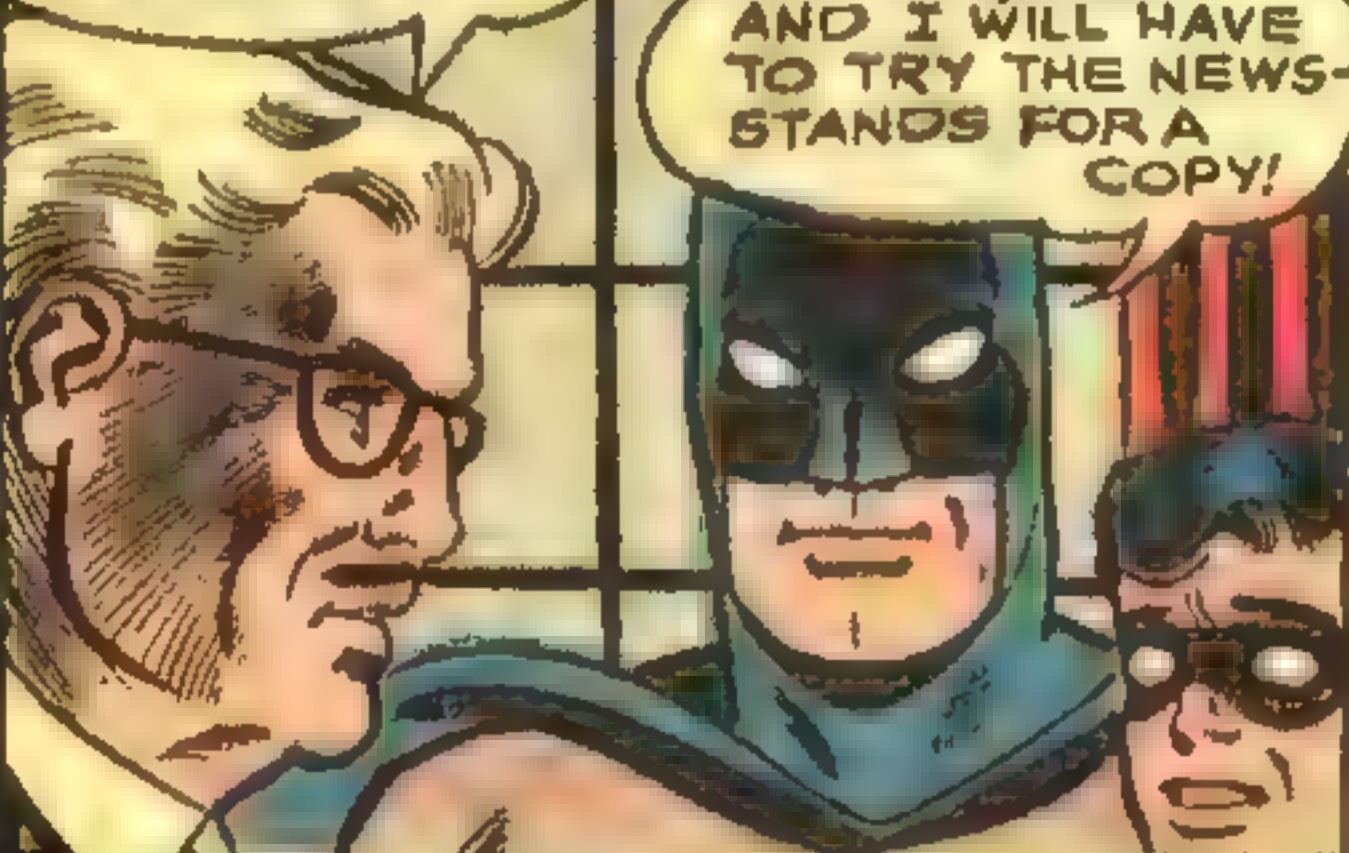
SOMETHING DISTURBED ME WHEN I LEAFED THROUGH THE ISSUE--

IF I CAN FIND OUT WHAT IT IS, IT MAY PROVIDE THE LIFE-SAVING CLUB WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE, MOMENTS AFTERWARD...

WHY, I'M SORRY, BATMAN-- BUT I GAVE THAT COMIC AWAY! I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT--

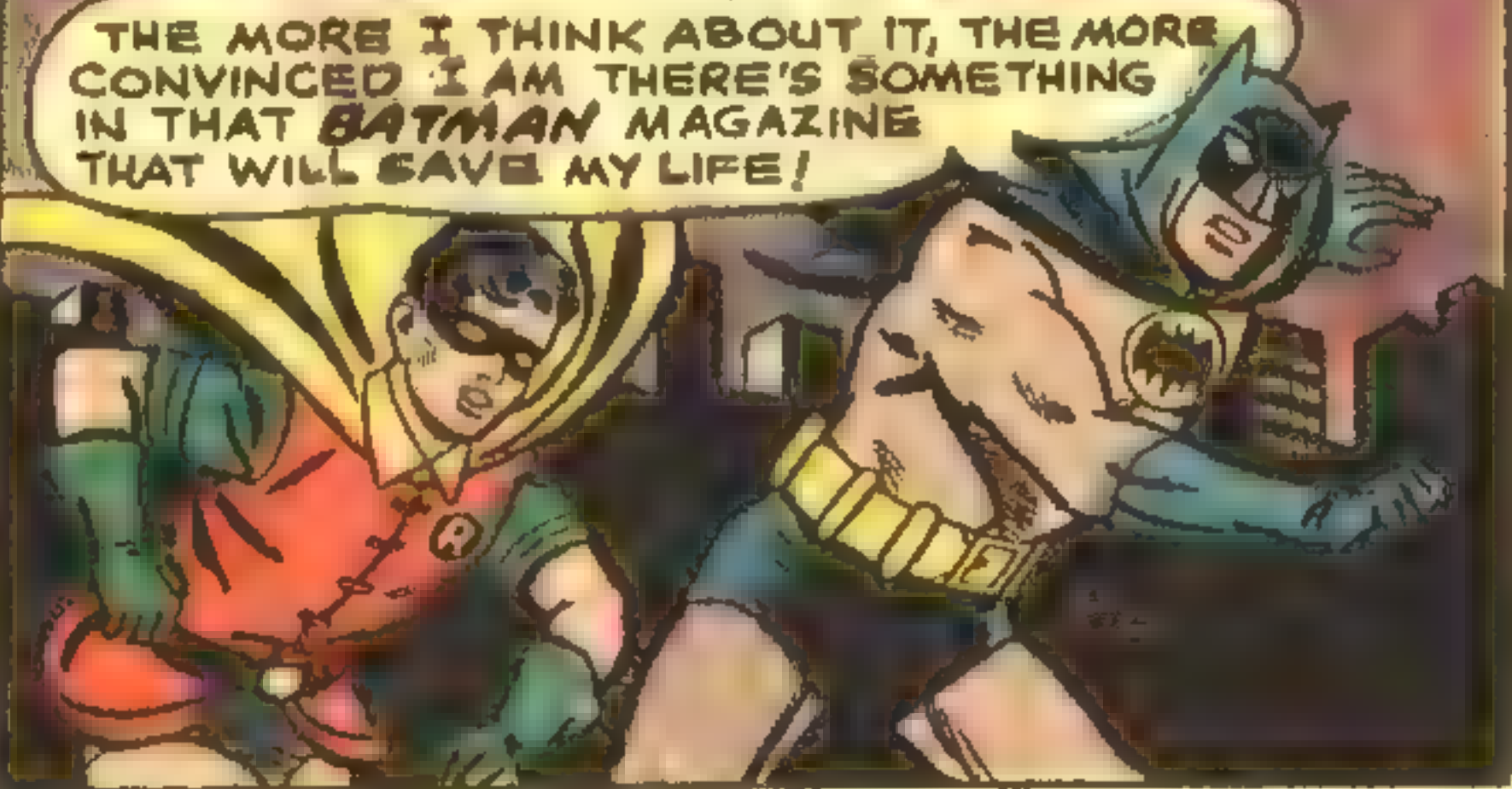
NO REASON, REALLY, FOR YOU TO HAVE THOUGHT SO, COMMISSIONER! WELL, ROBIN AND I WILL HAVE TO TRY THE NEWSSTANDS FOR A COPY!



WITH TIME A DEADLY FACTOR IN THIS GAME OF LIFE-AND-DEATH, THE CAPED CRUSADER AND TEEN TITAN RACE OUT ONTO THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...

YOU TRY THE NEWSSTAND AT THE END OF THE BLOCK, ROBIN-- I'LL TRY ANOTHER!

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE CONVINCED I AM THERE'S SOMETHING IN THAT BATMAN MAGAZINE THAT WILL SAVE MY LIFE!



QUICK, LET ME HAVE A COPY OF THE LATEST BATMAN! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH-- MINE!

SORRY, BATMAN-- THEY'RE ALL SOLD OUT! I HAVEN'T A SINGLE COPY LEFT!



AS DEALER AFTER DEALER FAILS TO PROVIDE A COPY, THE MASKED MANHUNTER FEELS THE CHILL OF DEATH AROUND HIM...

SUDDENLY-- WARMING WORDS TO DISPEL THE CHILL OF DEATH!...

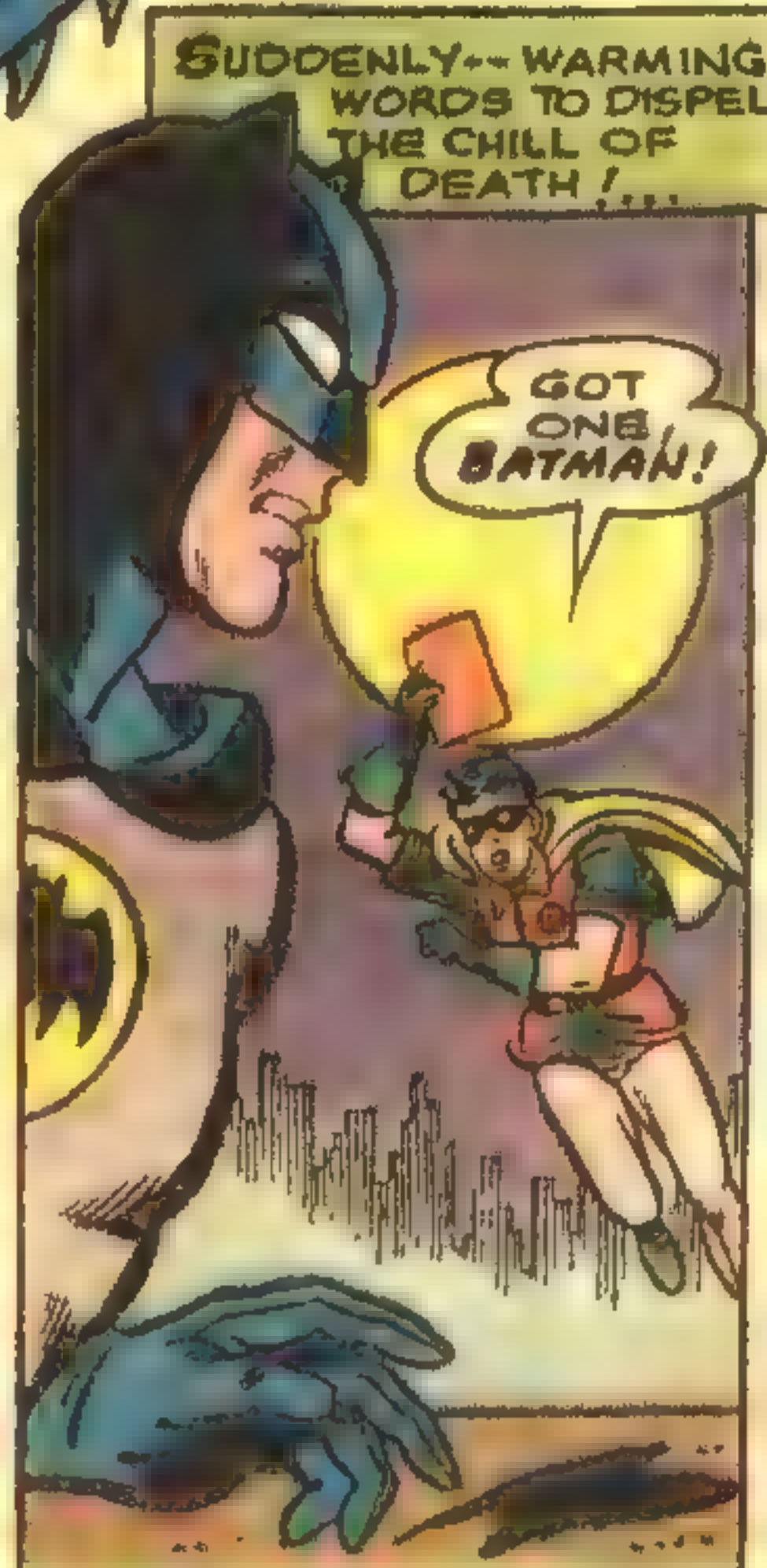
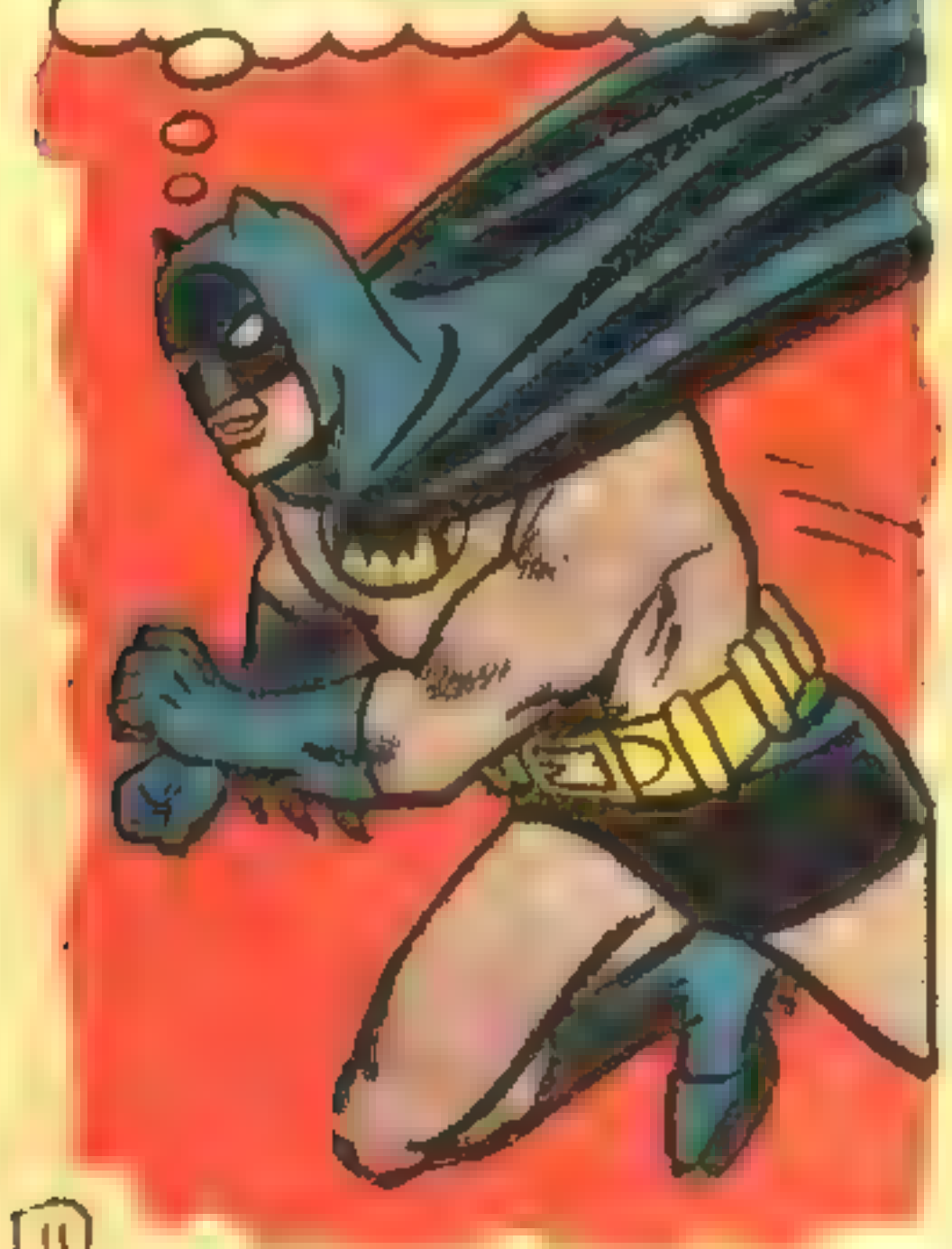
HERE IT IS-- THIS PANEL! LOOK AT HOW NORWOOD IS SPRAWLED OVER THE COUCH!

BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY WE FOUND HIM!

SURE-- BUT ONLY YOU AND I KNEW THAT! WE NEVER TOLD IT TO ANYONE ELSE!

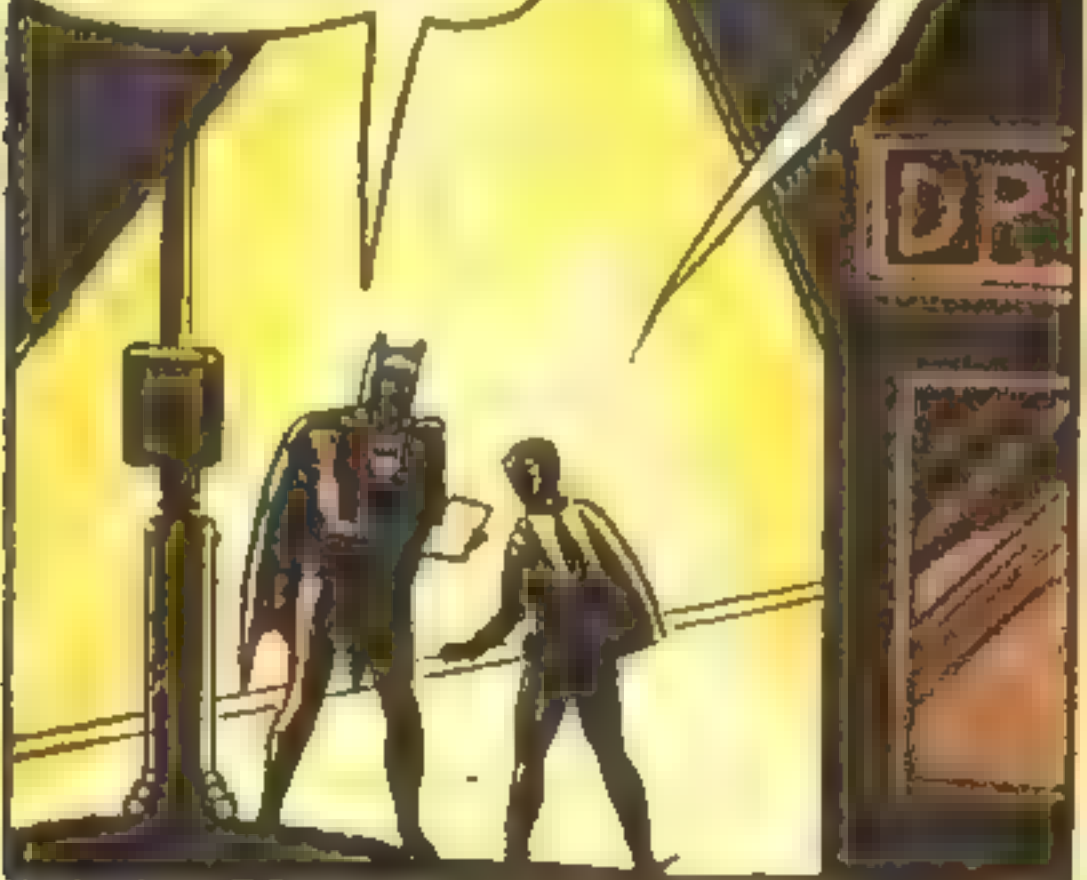
HOW IRONIC! THE BATMAN MAGAZINE SO POPULAR-- I CAN'T FIND A COPY-- TO SAVE MY LIFE!

GOT ONE BATMAN!



NOW--THE THREE CROOKS HAD NO VISITORS AT THEIR TRIAL OR IN JAIL-- WHICH MEANS THE ARTIST MUST BE THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THAT GANG!

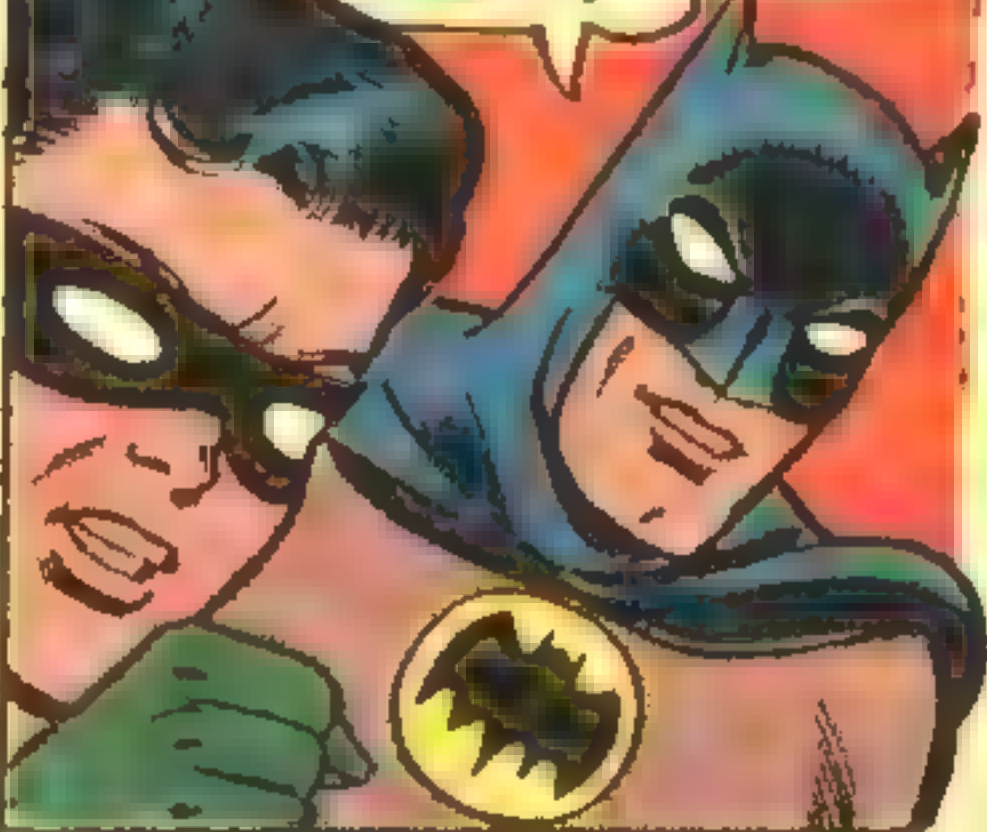
YET THIS ARTIST ACCURATELY PORTRAYED NORWOOD IN THE UNUSUAL POSTURE KNOWN ONLY TO OURSELVES--THE CAPTURED CROOKS--AND THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY!



GOOD ENOUGH, SO FAR--BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

FIND THE ARTISTIC CROOK-- AND TRY TO DRAW THE POISON OUT OF HIM!

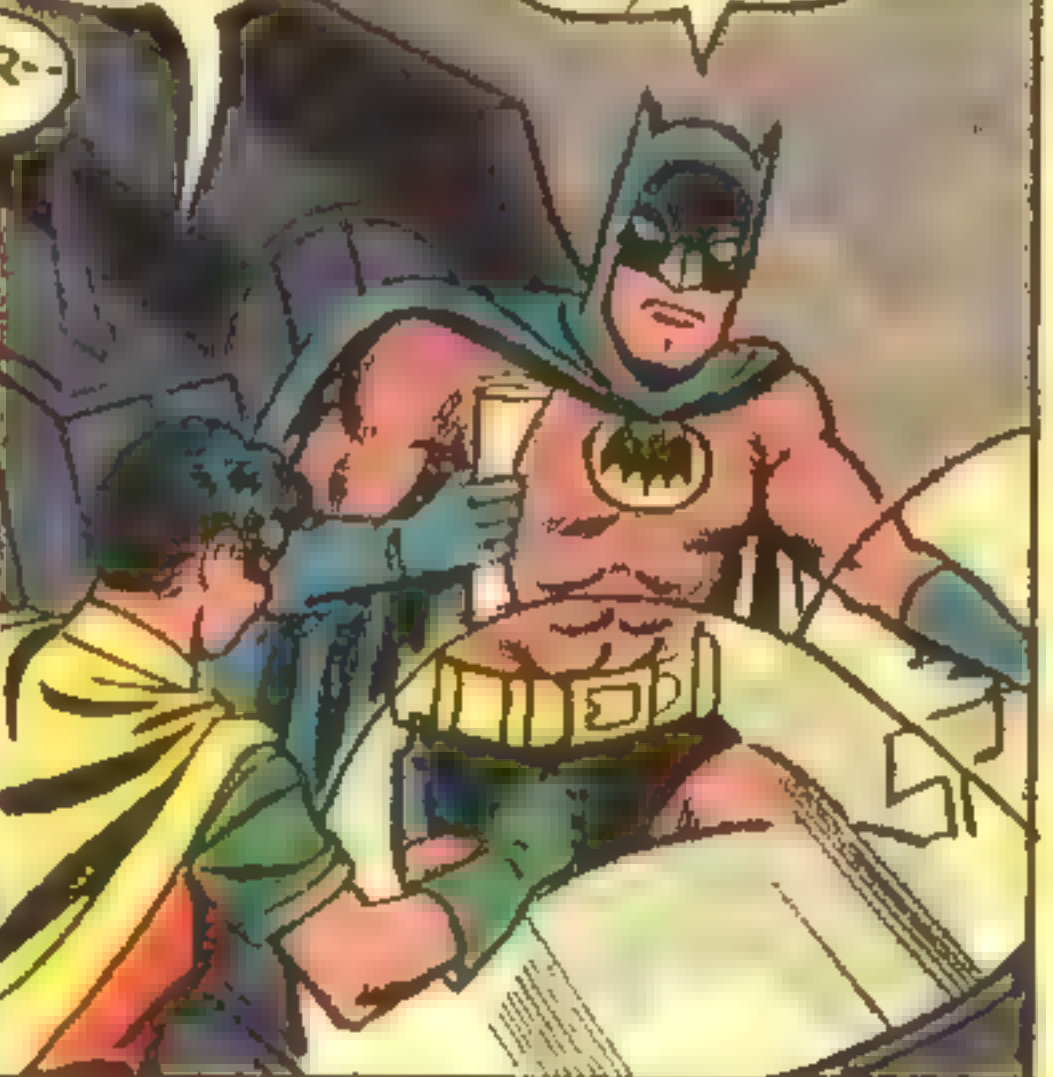
THIS MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED OUT OF TOWN, **ROBIN!** PHONE THE PUBLISHER--ASK HIM FOR THE ADDRESS OF THE ARTIST!



BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

TRY TO FIND THE ARTIST ON MY OWN!

THERE WAS ANOTHER CLUE I NOTED IN THE **BATMAN** MAG-- THAT MAY LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO HIM!



TEN MINUTES LATER... ALONG **GOthAM RIVER ROAD...**

WHEN THAT GANG-ARTIST DREW THE STORY OF THE NORWOOD CASE, HE SHOWED THE TELEVISION TRUCK LEAVING THE CROOKS' HIDE-OUT--WITH A VIEW OF THE **GOthAM BRIDGE** BETWEEN THE SILHOUETTED GARAGE AND HIDE-OUT HOUSE!

I'M HOPING THAT HE SKETCHED THE TRUE LOCALE OF THE HOUSE--



THERE IT IS!

NO MATTER HOW SMART THEY ARE--CROOKS ALWAYS MANAGE TO MAKE A MISTAKE!

AS THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER RACES INTO THE STUDIO OF ARTIST **REM-BRANDT DICKENS...**

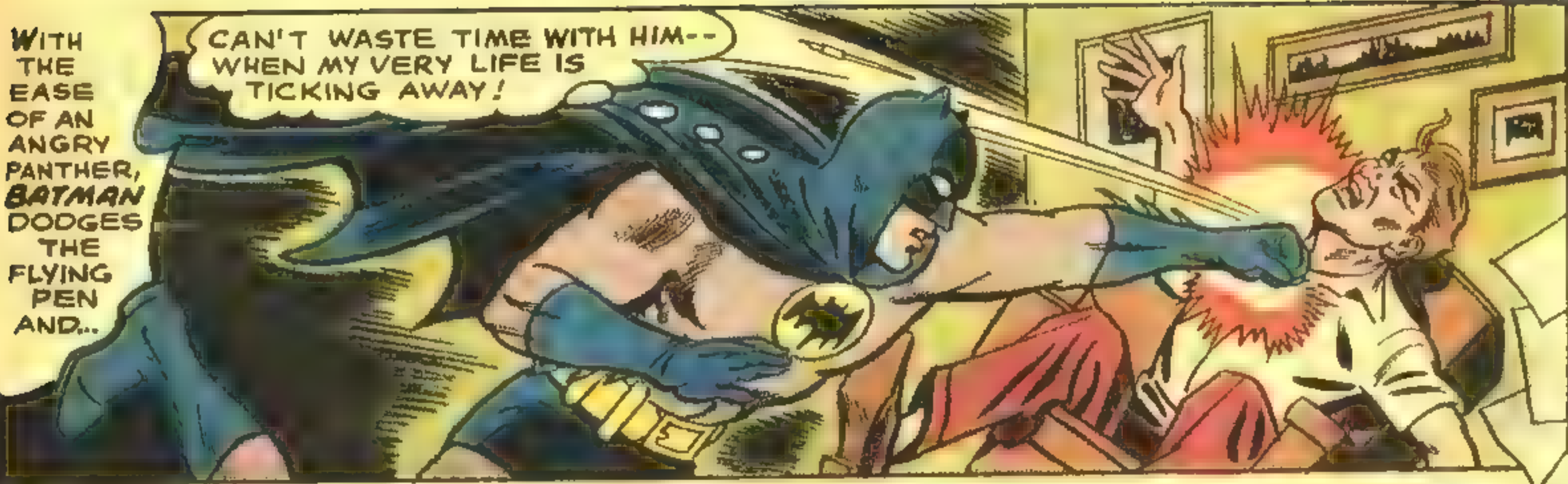
YOU!?

THE BOYS FAILED--BUT I WON'T! WHEN MY "POISON PEN" HITS YOU--YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!



WITH THE EASE OF AN ANGRY PANTHER, **BATMAN** DODGES THE FLYING PEN AND...

CAN'T WASTE TIME WITH HIM-- WHEN MY VERY LIFE IS TICKING AWAY!

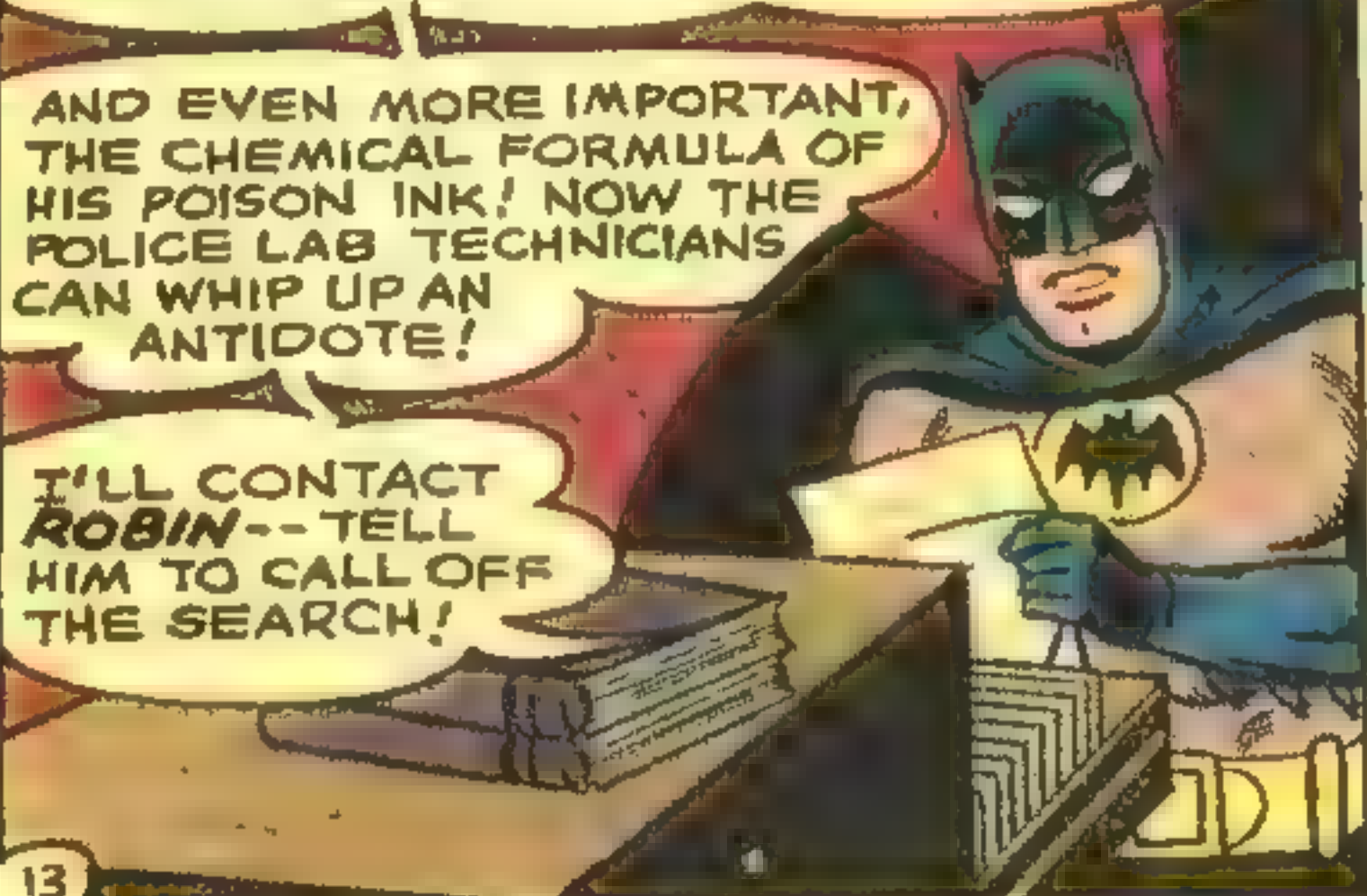


A RAPID SEARCH OF THE STUDIO AND...

FOUND 'EM! PLANS FOR "SURE-FIRE ROBBERIES" INCLUDING THE BURGLAR-ALARM ROBBERY THAT JUST FAILED--

AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE CHEMICAL FORMULA OF HIS POISON INK! NOW THE POLICE LAB TECHNICIANS CAN WHIP UP AN ANTIDOTE!

I'LL CONTACT **ROBIN**-- TELL HIM TO CALL OFF THE SEARCH!



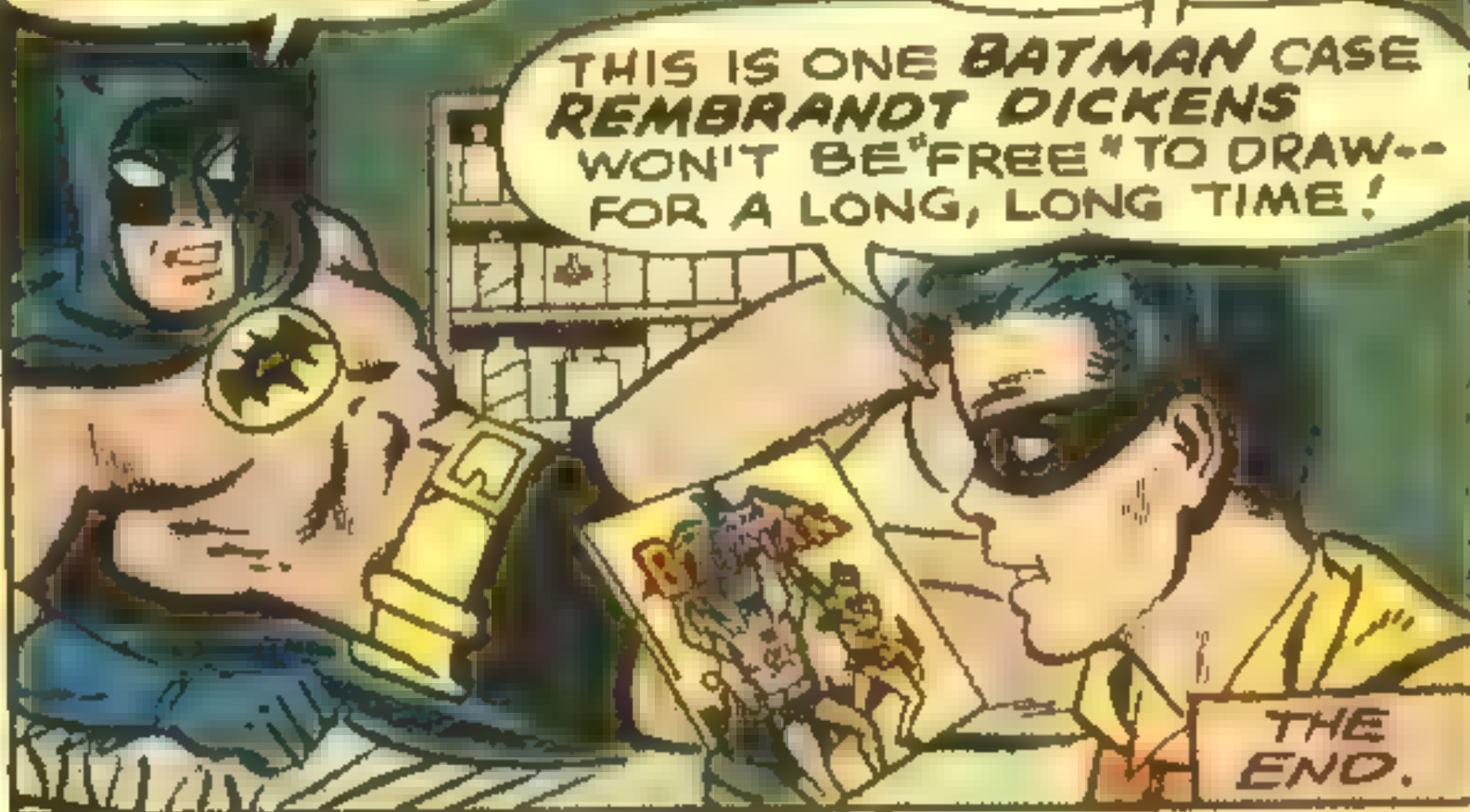
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LATER AFTER THE ANTIDOTE HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED...

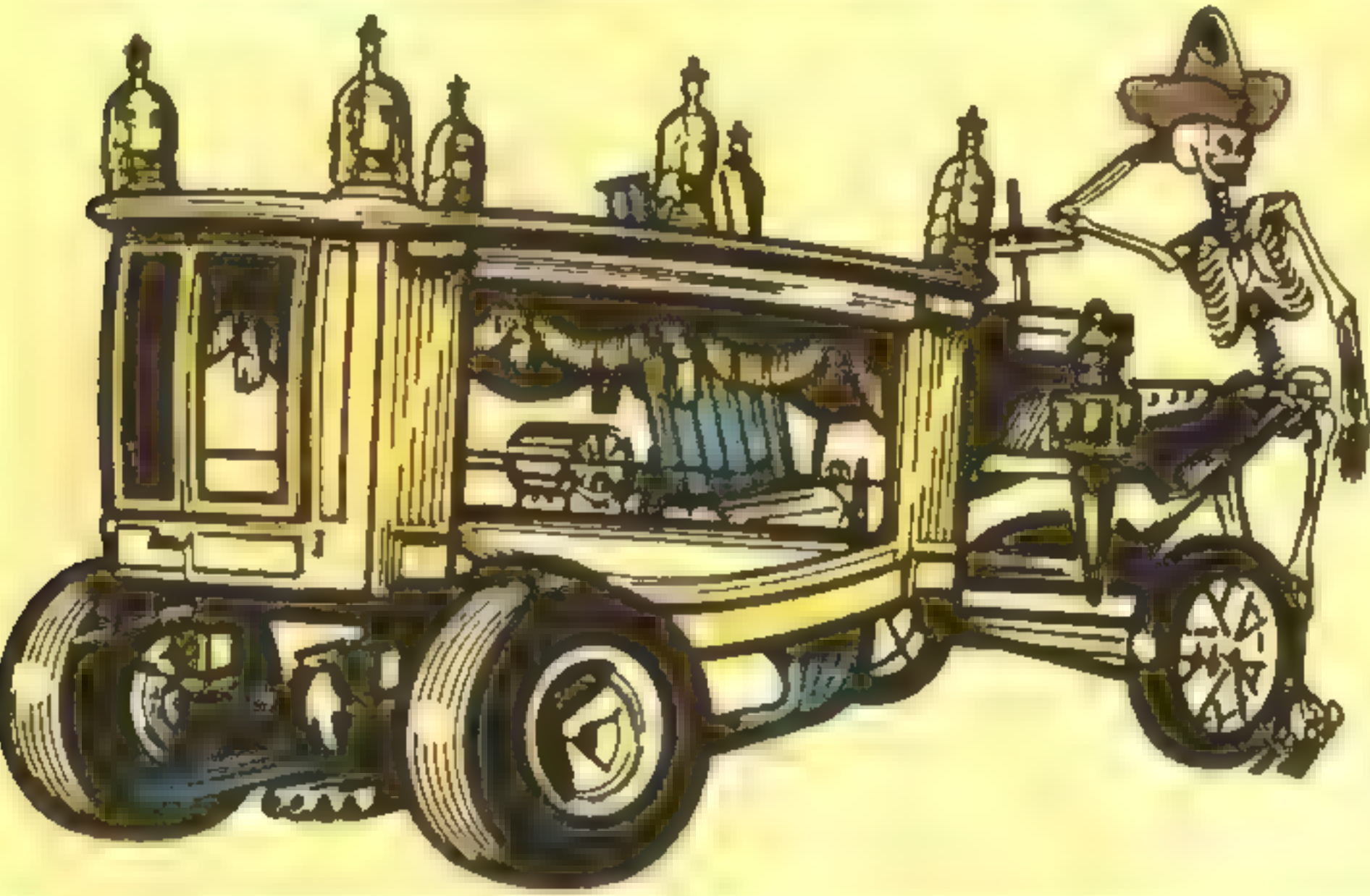
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME TO REST HERE AN HOUR--AND I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL!

YOU KNOW, I WAS JUST THINKING--READING THIS **BATMAN** ISH WHERE THAT FOURTH CROOK GOT AWAY--AND WHOM YOU JUST CAPTURED--

THIS IS ONE **BATMAN** CASE **REMBRANDT DICKENS** WON'T BE "FREE" TO DRAW--FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!



THE END.



Old Dead Eye Says-- Have Fun--Get the New Kookie Car Kit!

BOOT HILL EXPRESS

It's a hearse. Copy of a real one built in New York in mid 1800's. It's a 1/24 scale model of the original kookie, off-beat original built by Ray Fahrner. It's a swell model to make.

Note the gaudy ornaments on top, black velvet curtains inside, clear windows all around, hundred-year-old kerosene head and tail lamps.

Injected engine mounted inside with stacks sticking thru the roof. One piece frame, plated mag wheels, drag slicks on rear, engraved dashboard, diamond tufted seats and floor board. Lots of chrome.

Skeleton with ten gallon hat and six-gun and a grave marker included. Makes fascinating display with a western flair.

Get a Boot Hill Express at your favorite store today. It's dead certain you'll get a bang out of it. Only \$2.00.

Monogram Models, Inc.,
Morton Grove, Illinois.



DIRECT CURRENTS



What inconceivable power is packed into SUPERMAN'S fists! If he swung a little TOO HARD, is there a man alive who'd still BE alive after the MAN OF STEEL'S knuckles connected with him? You'll see it HAPPEN in the shocker of the century. . . "SUPERMAN—GUILTY OF HOMICIDE!" January ACTION, No. 358, on sale Nov. 30.

Here's the big action surprise you've been waiting for! Nothing, but NOTHING, has stirred up such a storm as RED'S death, and the gripping conclusion explodes in the March issue of CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 60! It's an issue you'll long remember . . . "THE THING THAT COULD NOT DIE!" On sale Dec. 7.

A crook is a crook whether he steals priceless loot—or objects worth practically nothing! When the WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO attempts to find out why anyone would steal BOTTLES, his curiosity is strong enough to KILL him! Wait till you view the "PLIGHT OF THE PIN-UP ATOM!" March, No. 35, on the stands Dec. 7.

Like your thrillers with a generous measure of Hitchcock . . . and more than a pinch of Serling? Then you'll find the March issue of THE UNEXPECTED just the raw, red meat you're looking for! It features three stories of suspense, topped by "THE NIGHT I WATCHED MYSELF DIE!" No. 106, on sale everywhere Dec. 7.

JEB STUART leads his HAUNTED TANK into its most searing battle when he promises to—"HOLD THAT TOWN FOR A DEAD MAN!" But what would you expect from a tank commander whose vehicle is inhabited by the ghost of Confederate General J.E.B. STUART? You'll find this blazing battle tale in the March, G.I. COMBAT, No. 128, on sale Dec. 12.

A Nazi murderer returns from the past to finish a mission assigned to him by HITLER! And what was DER FUEHRER'S command? To destroy the BLACKHAWKS! Meet "THE KILLER THAT TIME FORGOT," when he sets out to polish off the MAGNIFICENT 7 in the March issue of BLACKHAWK, No. 239, when it hits the newsstands Dec. 12!

Seeking a doctor to cure TAD'S square personality, BOB HOPE lands in deepest Africa! And traipsing the laughter trail with him are that un-jolly green giant, FRANKLIN STEIN, and the rest of the fearsome faculty of BENE-DICT ARNOLD HIGH. It's "IS THERE A WITCH-DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?" March, No. 109, on sale Dec. 7.



BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

EH? YOU'RE
NOT THE
REAL
ROBIN!

BUT YOU'RE FOR REAL,
EH, BRUCE WAYNE--
ALIAS BATMAN!



HERE WE GO AGAIN-- WITH ANOTHER
OF YOUR FAVORITE TYPE STORIES!
BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY REVEALED--
HIS BRUCE WAYNE FEATURES EXPOSED
TO CRIMINAL EYES!
SURE-- YOU KNOW THAT THE CAPED
CRUSADER WILL MANAGE TO GET OUT
OF IT!

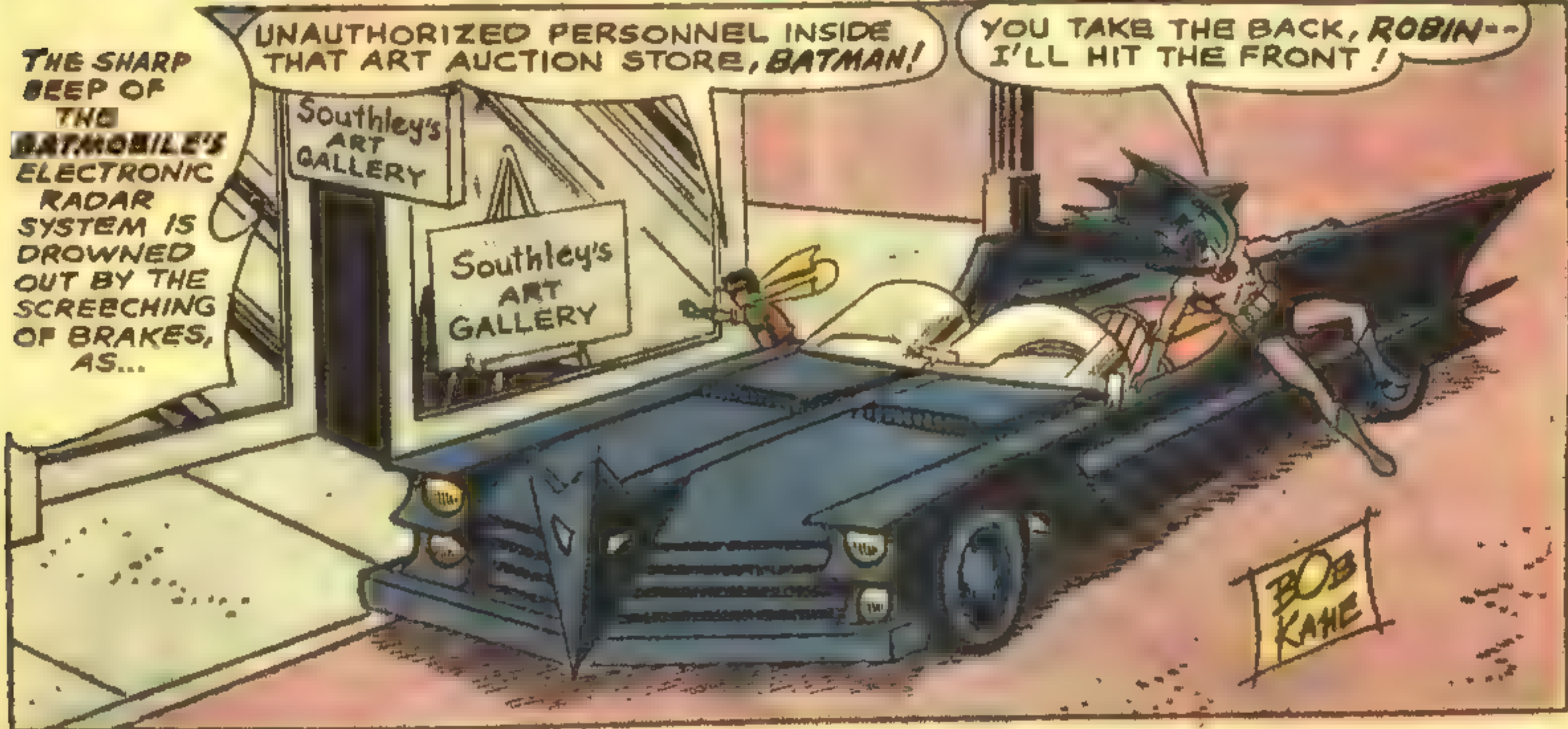
BUT HOW-- WELL, THAT'S THE
STARTLING STORY BEHIND BATMAN'S...

Seven Steps TO SAVE FACE!

THE SHARP
BEEP OF
THE
BATMOBILE'S
ELECTRONIC
RADAR
SYSTEM IS
DROWNED
OUT BY THE
SCREECHING
OF BRAKES,
AS...

UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL INSIDE
THAT ART AUCTION STORE, BATMAN!

YOU TAKE THE BACK, ROBIN--
I'LL HIT THE FRONT!





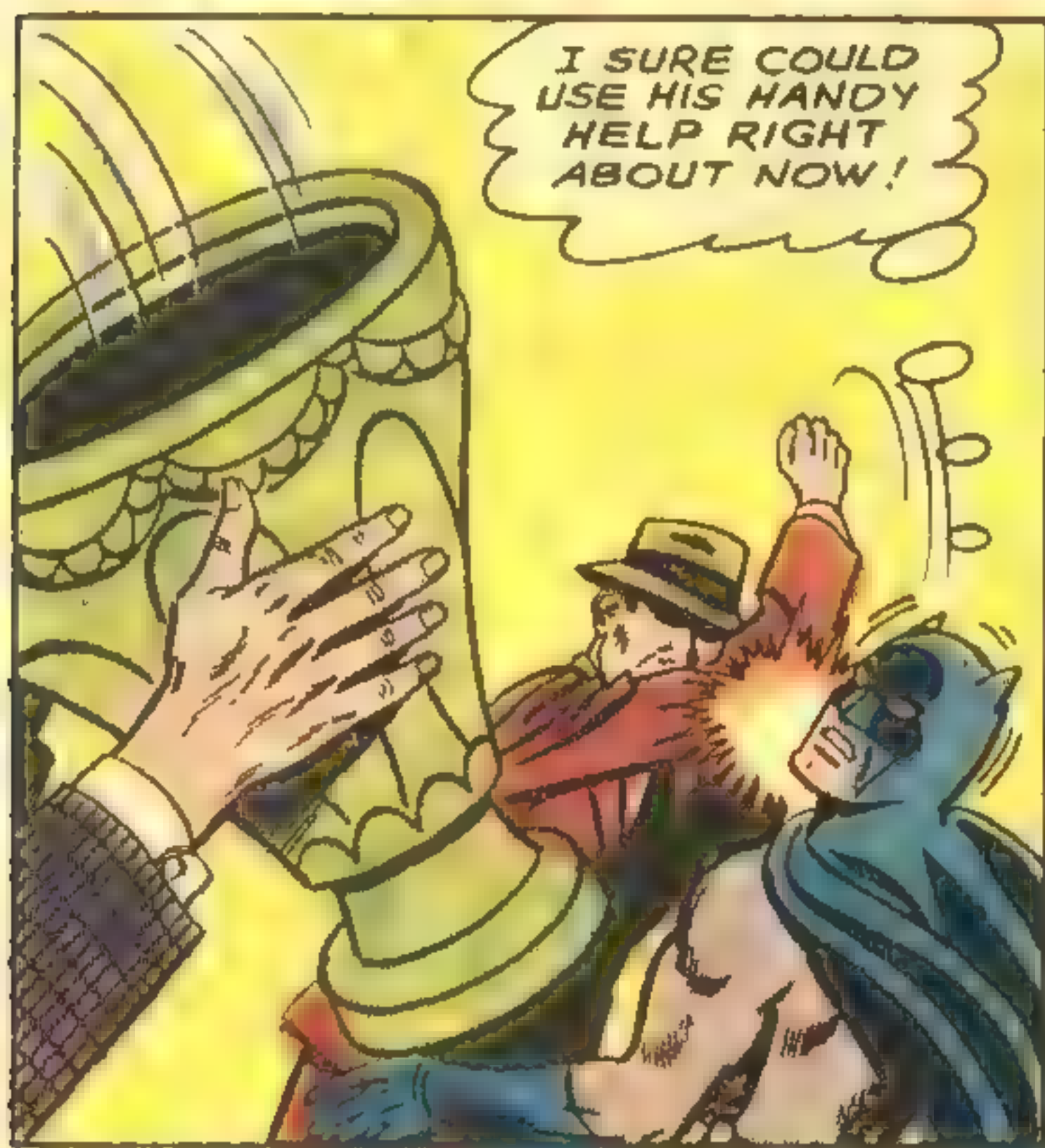
AS THE COWLED CRUSADER SYNCHRONIZES HIS EXPLOSIVE ENTRANCE INTO THE SOUTHLEY ART GALLERY WITH THAT OF THE BOY WONDER...

I HOPE THIS IS THE ELUSIVE GANG THAT'S BEEN ROLLING OVER GOTHAM CITY WITH A CRIME-WAVE LATELY! IF IT IS --

IT MAKES THE FIRST TIME ROBIN AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CATCH UP TO THEM!



AND THINKING OF ROBIN-- WHAT'S DELAYING HIM?



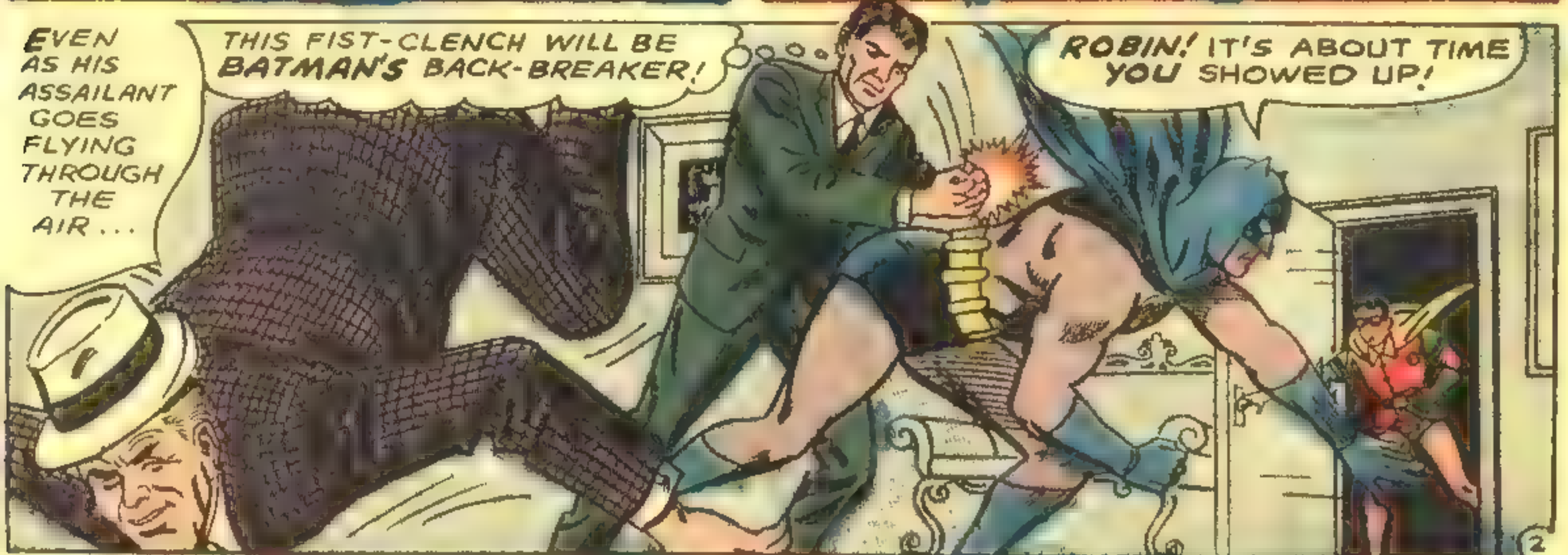
I SURE COULD USE HIS HANDY HELP RIGHT ABOUT NOW!



WHIRLING, THE MASKED MANHUNTER CATCHES AN ASSAILANT IN A SASAE TSURIKOMI GOSHI JUDO-HOLD...

THIS IS A GOOD SPOT FOR THE RESISTING HIP THROW...

TO DISARM THAT VASE-ATTACKER!



EVEN AS HIS ASSAILANT GOES FLYING THROUGH THE AIR...

THIS FIST-CLENCH WILL BE BATMAN'S BACK-BREAKER!

ROBIN! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP!

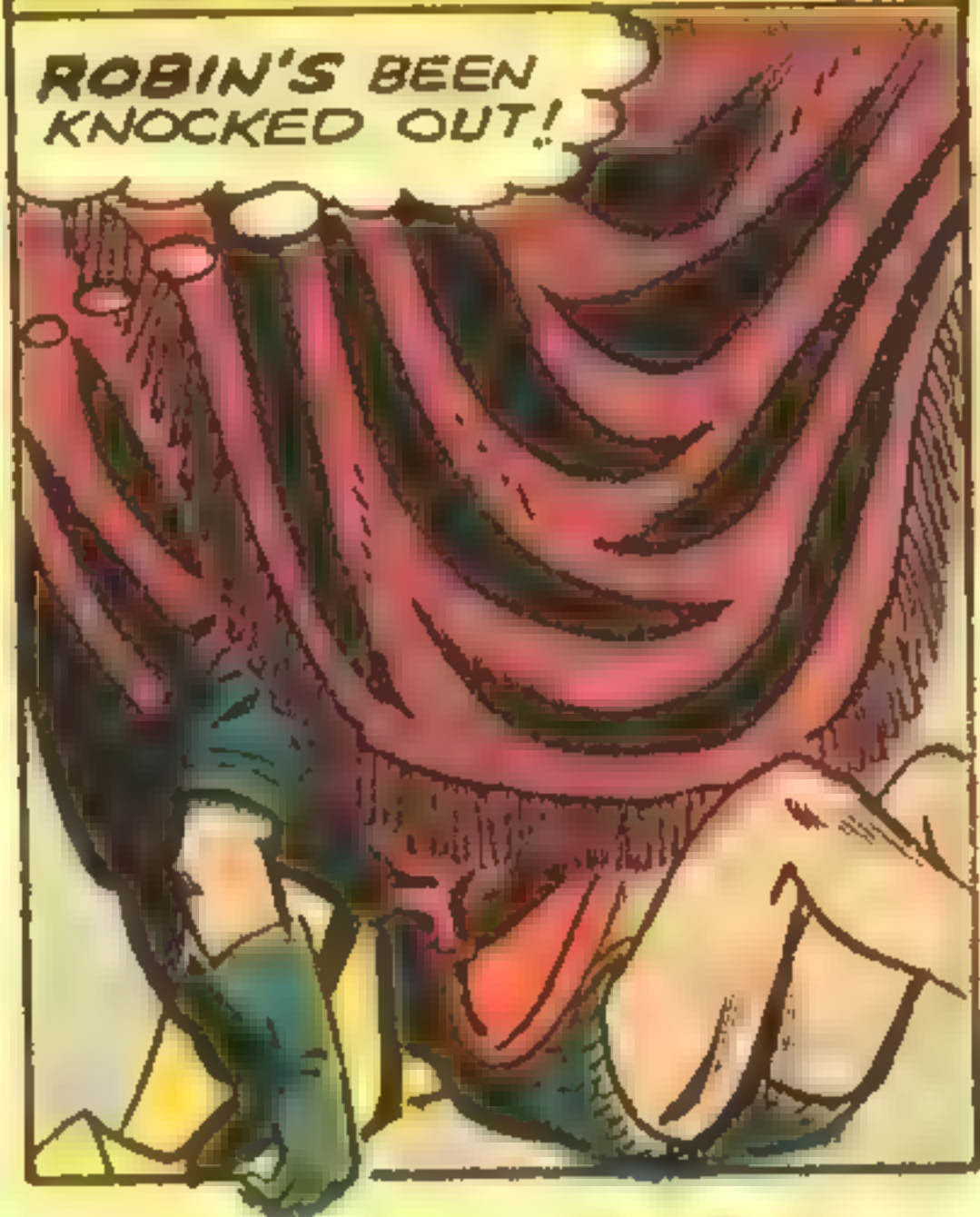
A SNEAK LEAP FROM BEHIND CATCHES ROBIN BY COMPLETE SURPRISE...

ROBIN WAS SO INTENT ON HELPING ME, HE DIDN'T SEE THAT CROOK!



REELING BACKWARD, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT SLAMS INTO THE WALL, DIS- LODGING A RARE TAPESTRY...

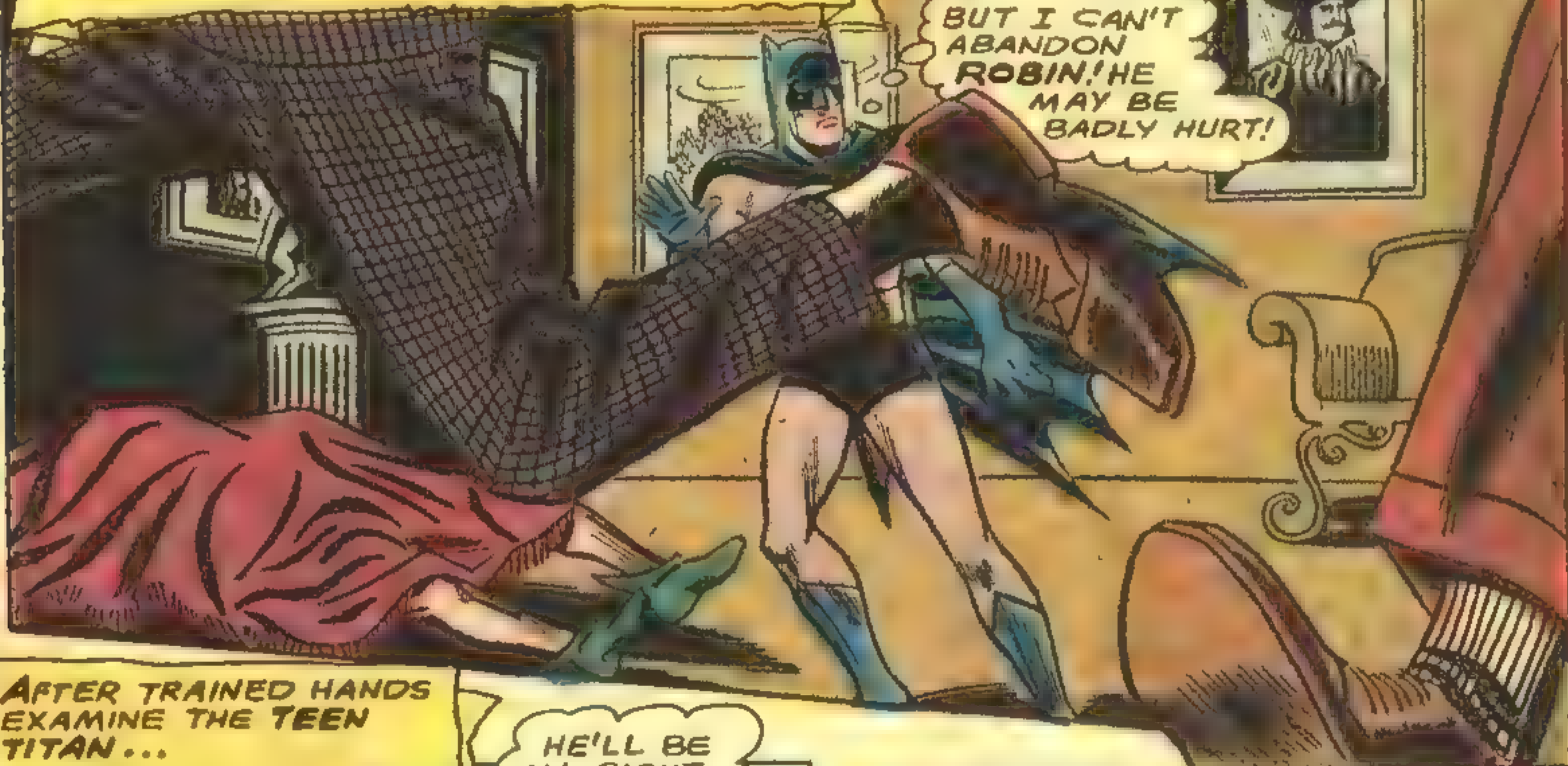
ROBIN'S BEEN KNOCKED OUT!



IN HIS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS CRIME-FIGHTING COMPANION, THE CAPED CRUSADER HESITATES...

THE CROOKS SCOOTING OFF--

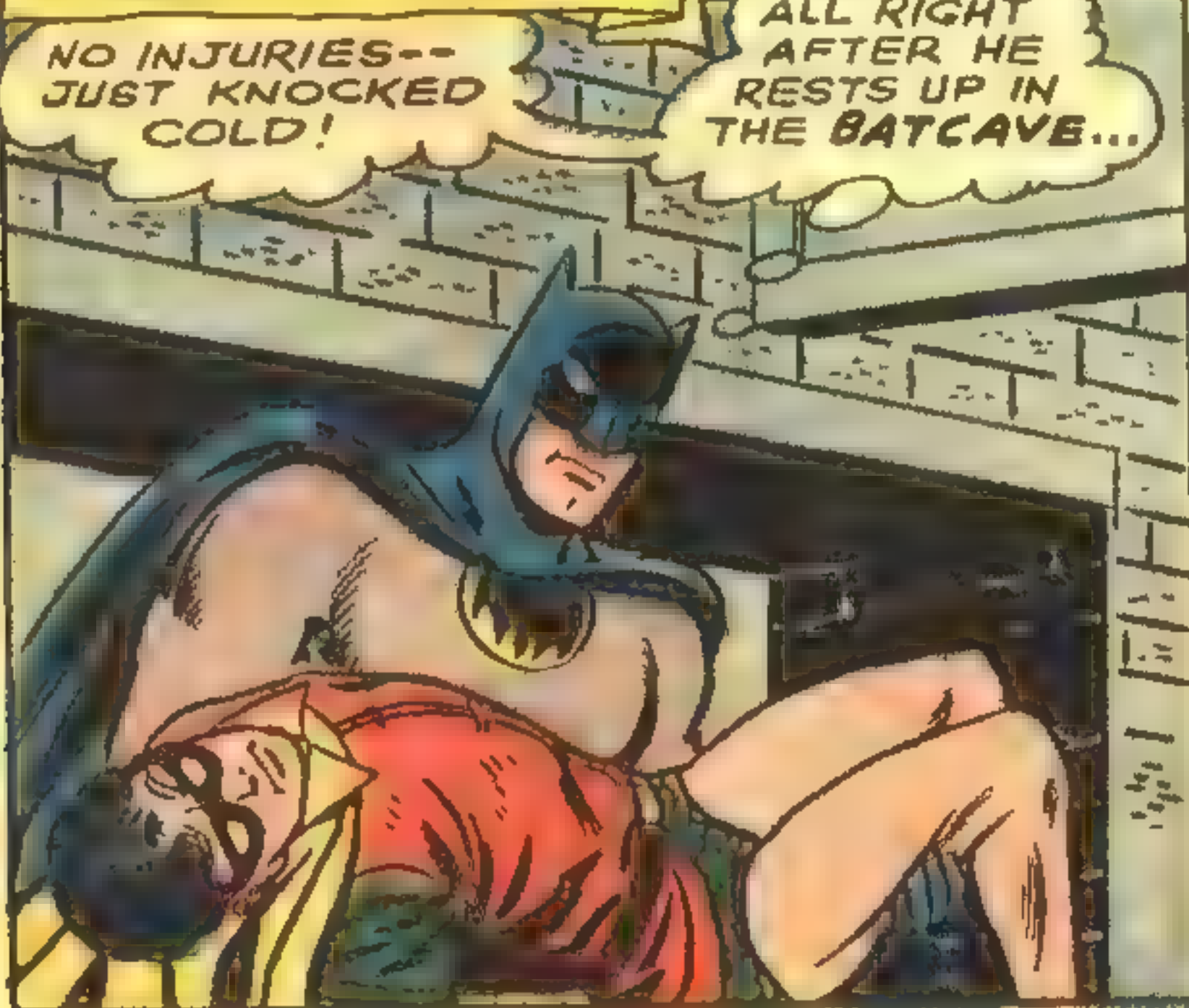
BUT I CAN'T ABANDON ROBIN! HE MAY BE BADLY HURT!



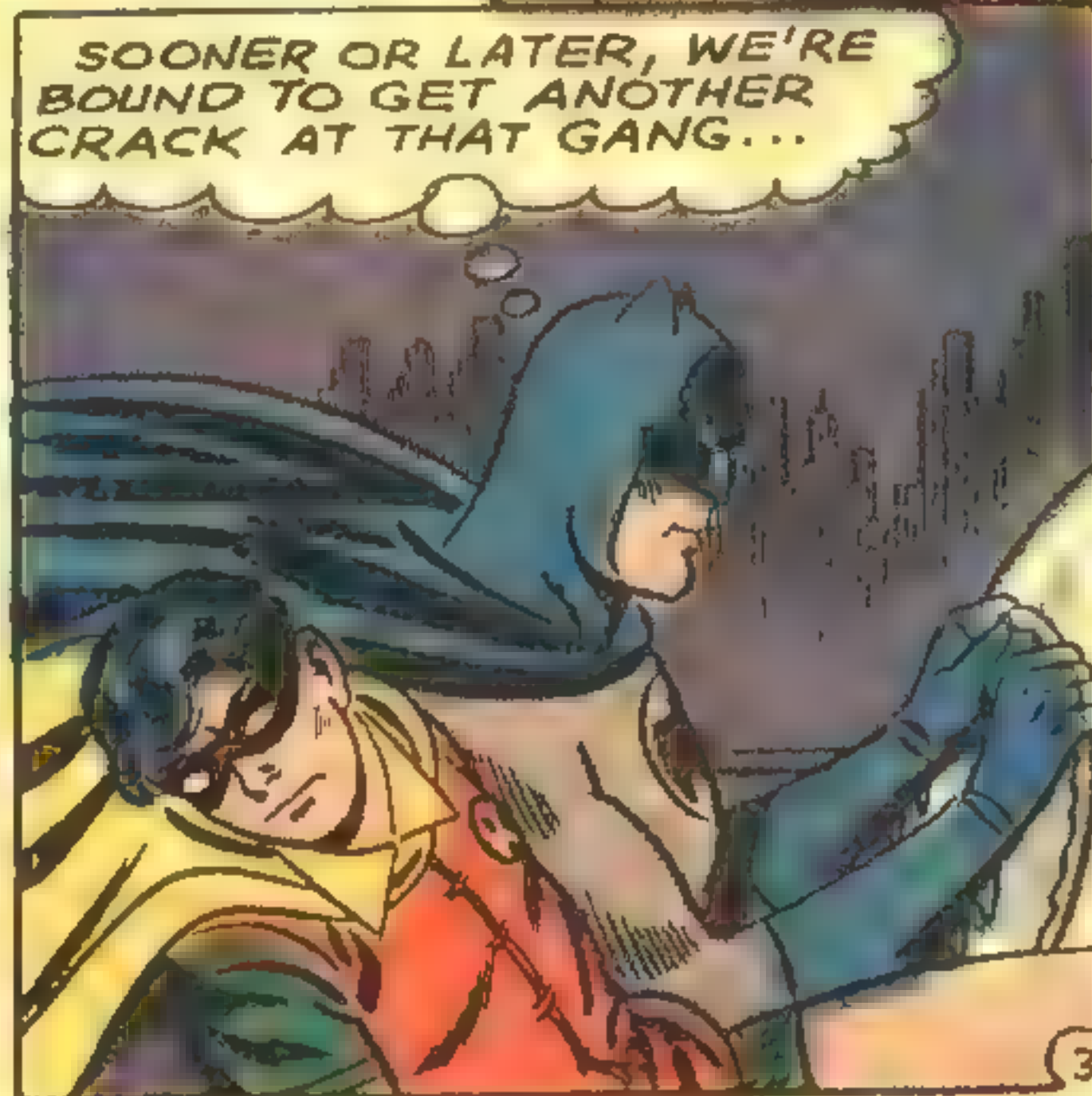
AFTER TRAINED HANDS EXAMINE THE TEEN TITAN...

NO INJURIES-- JUST KNOCKED COLD!

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT AFTER HE RESTS UP IN THE BATCAVE...



SOONER OR LATER, WE'RE BOUND TO GET ANOTHER CRACK AT THAT GANG...



INSIDE THE SANCTUARY, AS BATMAN LEANS OVER ROBIN TO REMOVE HIS MASK AND GIVE HIM A SNIFF OF SPIRITS OF AMMONIA...

SURPRISE!!

EH? THAT'S NOT ROBIN'S REAL FACE--!

NEXT INSTANT, "ROBIN'S" HAND SHOOTS OUT AND WHIPS OFF BATMAN'S MASK...

BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT BATMAN'S REAL FACE--!

WELL, WELL, WELL! NOW I'M THE ONE WHO'S SURPRISED!

SO THE GREAT BATMAN IS ACTUALLY THE FAMOUS MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY-PHILANTHROPIST--
BRUCE WAYNE!

LITTLE DID I KNOW WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER, I'D BE MEETING YOU THIS VERY NIGHT-- AS **BATMAN!**

OUR NEWLY ORGANIZED GANG FIGURED WE COULDN'T OPERATE FOR LONG UNLESS WE PUT BATMAN OUT OF THE WAY--AND THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT WAS BY LEARNING YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!

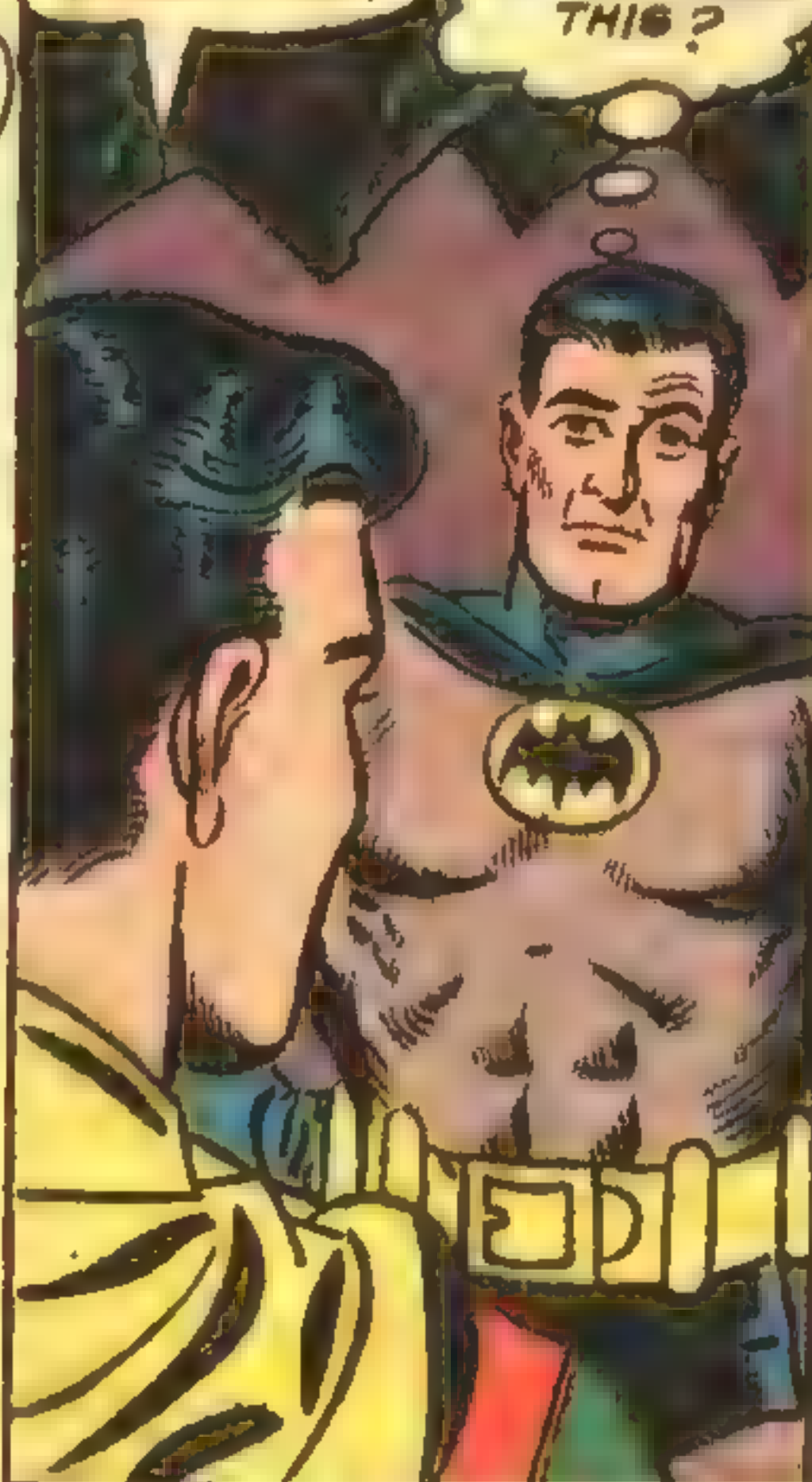
WE'VE BEEN ROBBING LIKE CRAZY, EXPECTING THAT SOONER OR LATER YOU'D CATCH UP TO US! AND YOU SURE DID!

NOW THAT WE KNOW--
BRUCE WAYNE IS GONNA GET IT--AND WHEN HE GOES, SO DOES **BATMAN!**

ANY QUESTIONS?

JUST ONE!
HOW DO I GET OUT OF A FIX LIKE THIS?

NO? WELL, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING--WE'VE HAD OUR **ROBIN-SWITCH** PLAN READY TO PUT INTO OPERATION EVERY TIME WE ROBBED IN **GOTHAM CITY**--BUT TONIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU TWO OBLIGINGLY SHOWED UP!



"WHEN THE REAL ROBIN RAN IN THROUGH THE REAR, OUT-SIDE DOOR OF SOUTHLEY'S-- WE WERE ALL READY FOR HIM!"

THUD!

HE'S OUT!

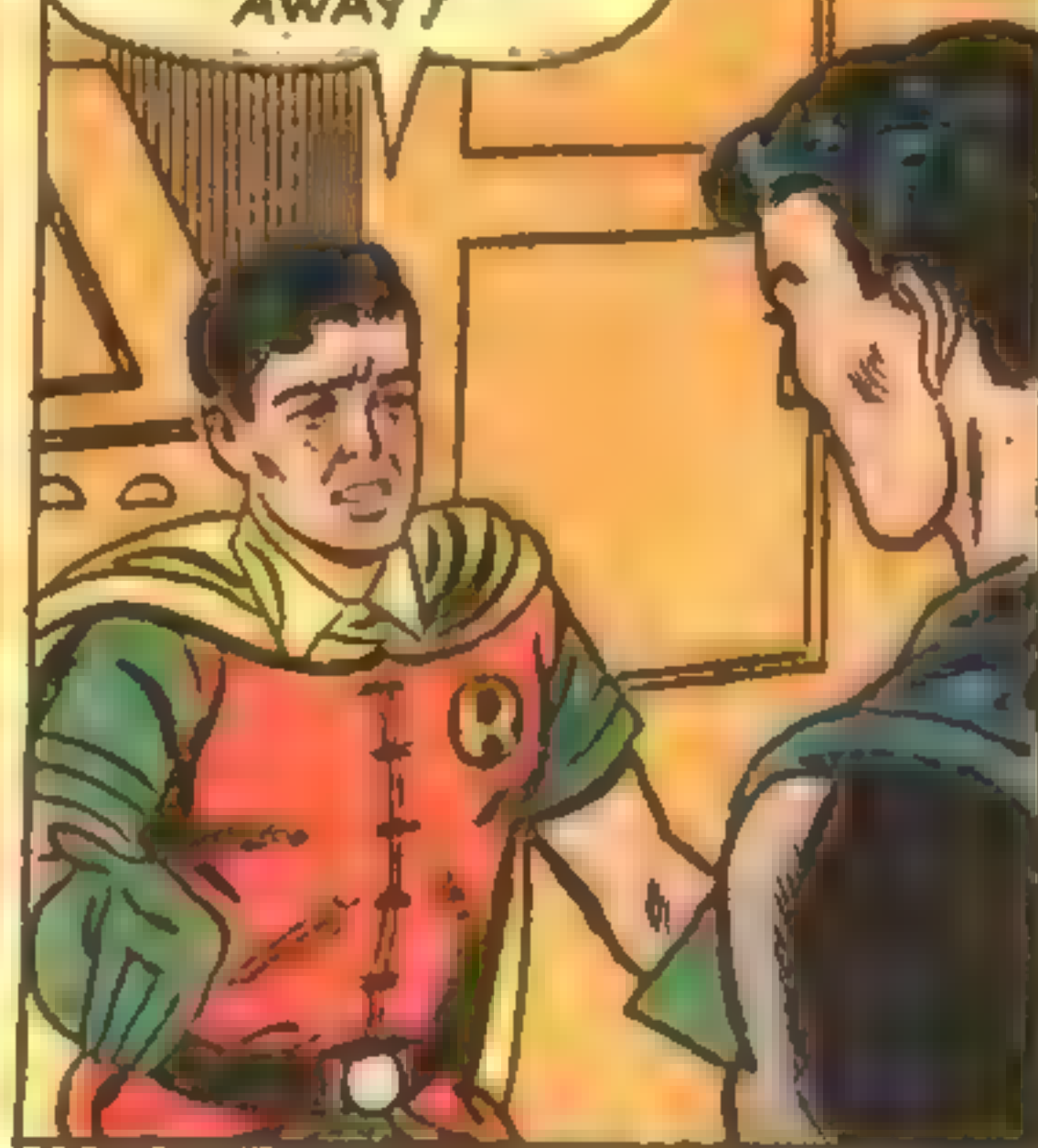
HERE'S WHERE I TAKE OVER!

"AND SO IT WAS REALLY ME YOU SAW COME RACING INTO THE ROOM..."

THE PLAN IS FOR ME TO GET KNOCKED OUT-- REALLY KNOCKED OUT-- IF WE'RE TO FOOL BATMAN!

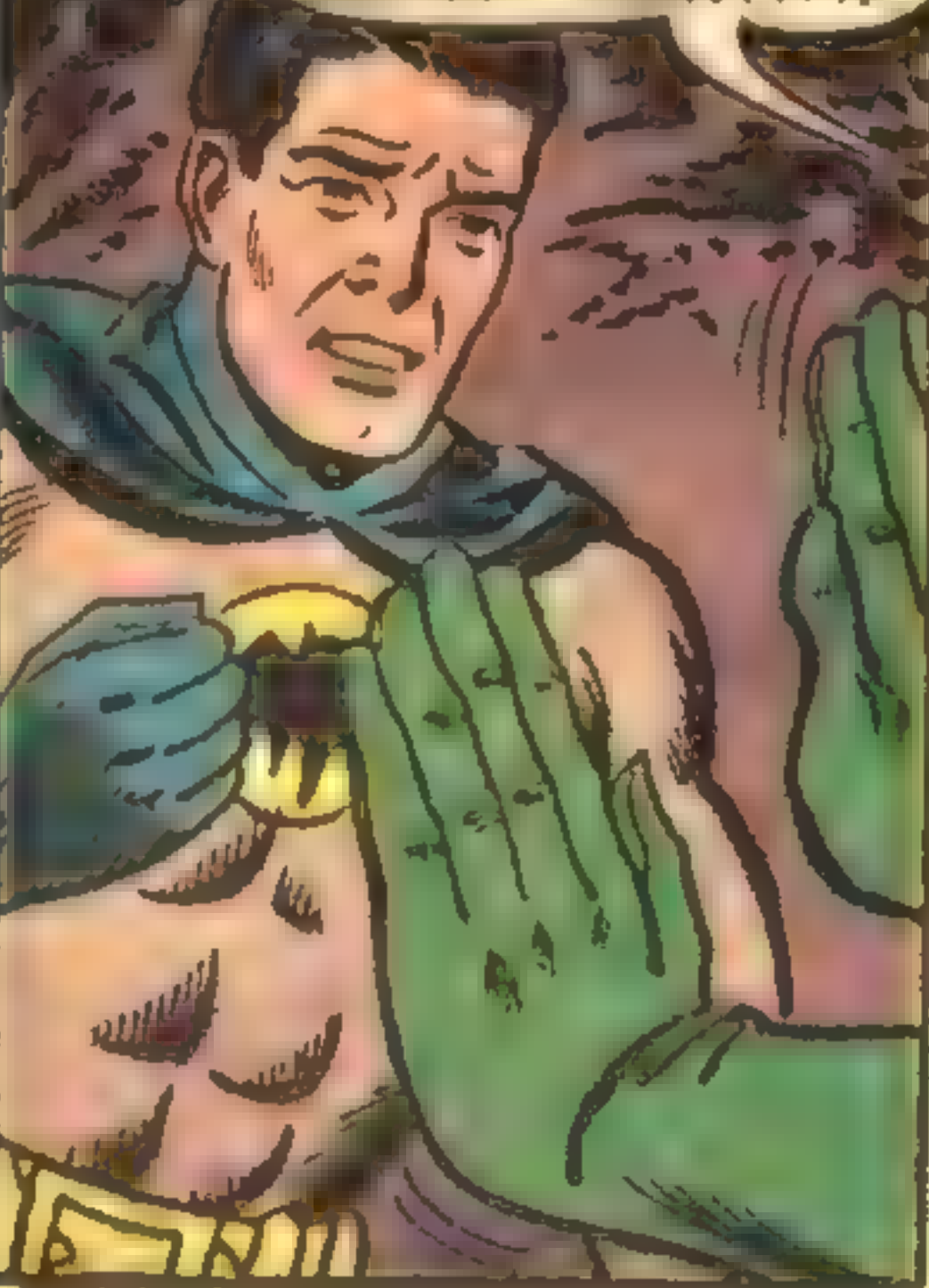
YOU KNOW THE REST! ALTHOUGH I CAME TO ON THE WAY HERE, I DIDN'T EVEN DARE OPEN MY EYES FOR FEAR I'D HAVE TO SPEAK-- LET MY VOICE GIVE ME AWAY!

WHAT ABOUT ROBIN?



IF HE'S BEEN HARMED... RELAX, RELAX! WE AIN'T GONNA HURT HIM! ALL THE BOYS WANT TO DO IS FIND OUT WHO HE IS TOO!

BUT DON'T THINK GETTING RID OF ME WILL PROTECT YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!



BECAUSE THE UNDERSIDE OF MY BELT IS BUGGED, SEE? THE WHOLE GANG'S BEEN LISTENING IN ON THIS! THEY ALSO KNOW WHERE THIS BATCAVE IS BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN TRACKING MY BUG AND LISTENING TO IT AT THE SAME TIME!

HOW ABOUT IT, BOYS? AM I COMING IN LOUD AND CLEAR?

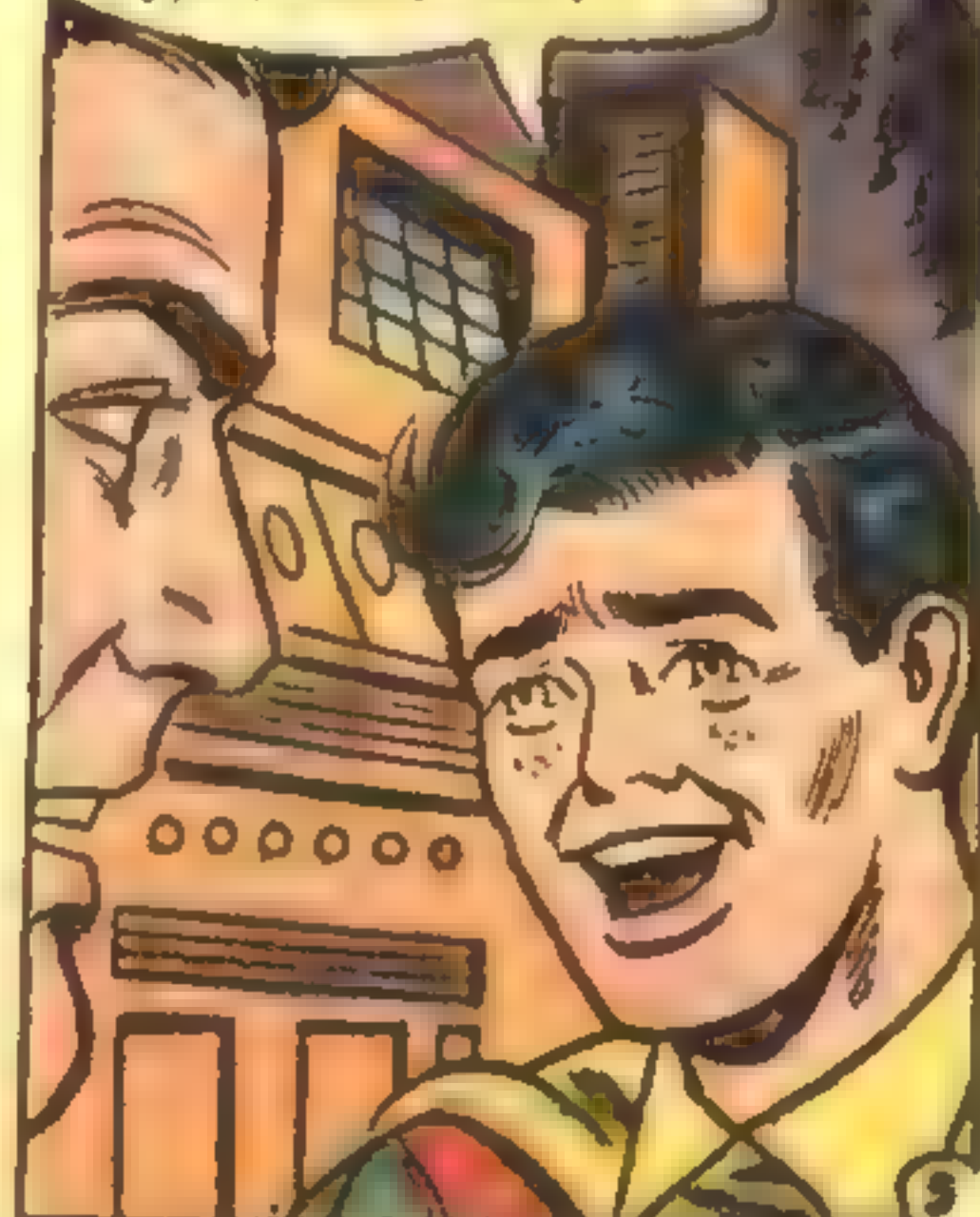
BATMAN-- IS-- BRUCE-- WAYNE!

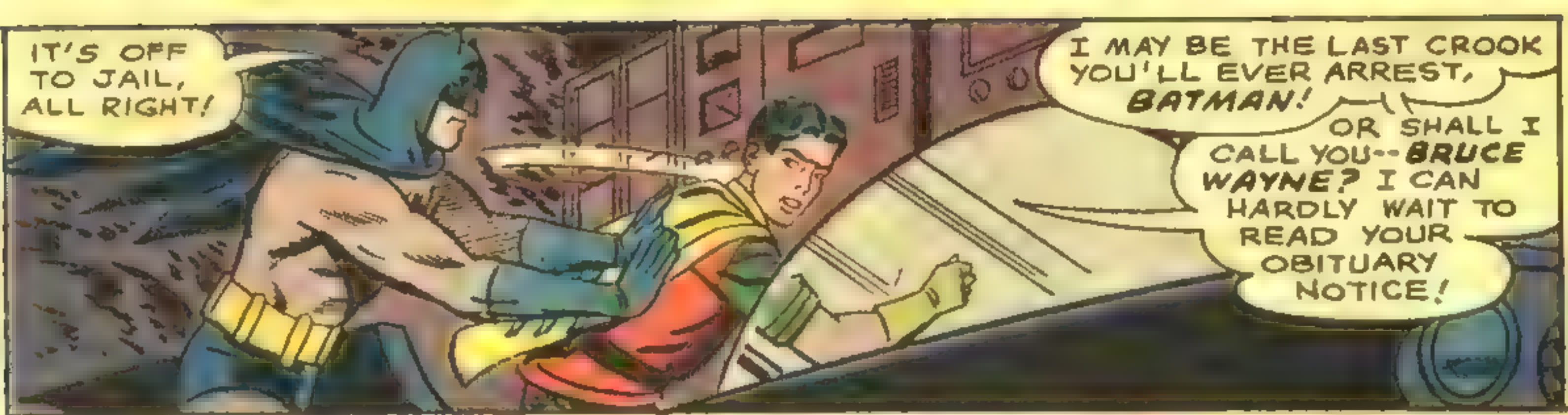


HA! HA! HA! I SUPPOSE YOUR NEXT MOVE IS TO SEND ME TO JAIL?

SO WHAT! I'VE BEEN PAID TWO-HUNDRED GRAND FOR THIS JOB-- MORE'N I'D EVER MAKE AS A CIRCUS MIDGET!

WHEN I GET OUT IN A COUPLA YEARS, I'LL LIVE IT UP IN STYLE. HA! HA! HA!

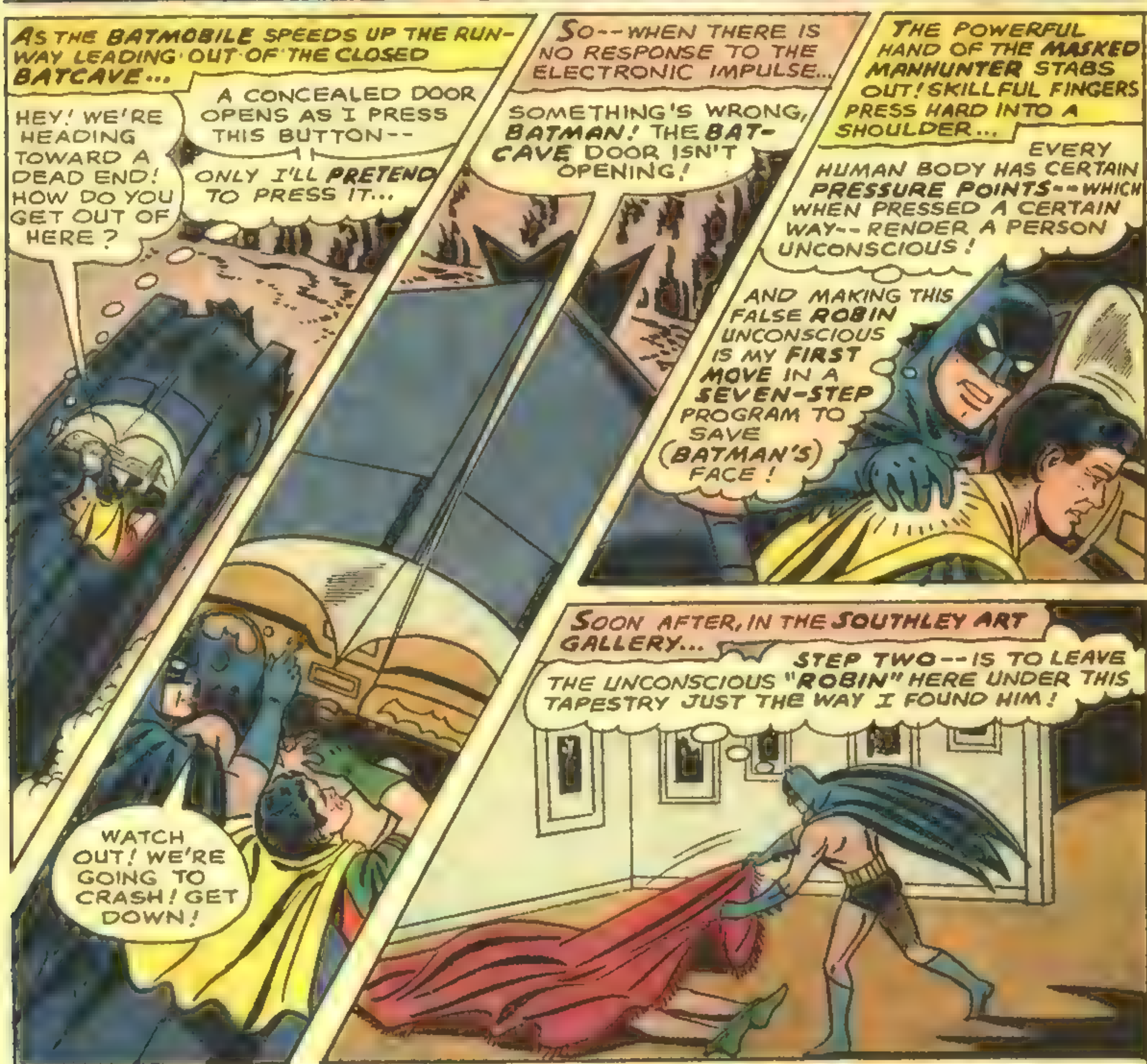




IT'S OFF TO JAIL, ALL RIGHT!

I MAY BE THE LAST CROOK YOU'LL EVER ARREST, BATMAN!

OR SHALL I CALL YOU--**BRUCE WAYNE**? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO READ YOUR OBITUARY NOTICE!



AS THE BATMOBILE SPEEDS UP THE RUNWAY LEADING OUT OF THE CLOSED BATCAVE...

HEY! WE'RE HEADING TOWARD A DEAD END! HOW DO YOU GET OUT OF HERE?

A CONCEALED DOOR OPENS AS I PRESS THIS BUTTON-- ONLY I'LL PRETEND TO PRESS IT...

SO--WHEN THERE IS NO RESPONSE TO THE ELECTRONIC IMPULSE...

SOMETHING'S WRONG, BATMAN! THE BATCAVE DOOR ISN'T OPENING!

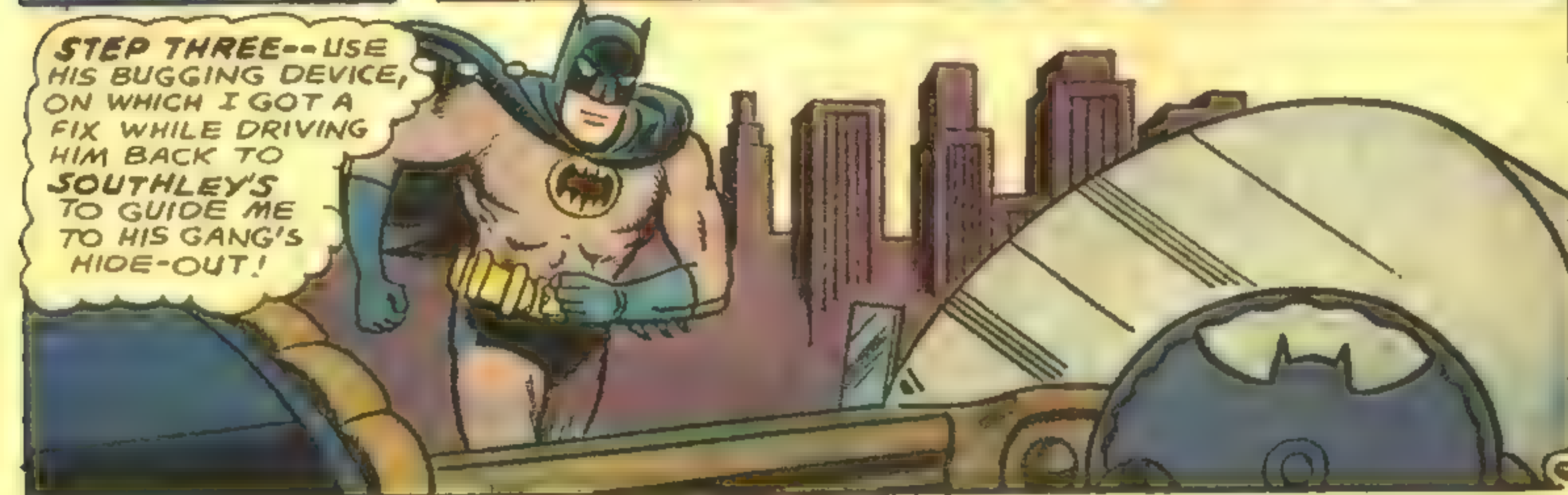
THE POWERFUL HAND OF THE MASKED MANHUNTER STABS OUT! SKILLFUL FINGERS PRESS HARD INTO A SHOULDER...

EVERY HUMAN BODY HAS CERTAIN PRESSURE POINTS--WHICH WHEN PRESSED A CERTAIN WAY-- RENDER A PERSON UNCONSCIOUS!

AND MAKING THIS FALSE ROBIN UNCONSCIOUS IS MY FIRST MOVE IN A SEVEN-STEP PROGRAM TO SAVE (BATMAN'S) FACE!

SOON AFTER, IN THE SOUTHLEY ART GALLERY...

STEP TWO--IS TO LEAVE THE UNCONSCIOUS "ROBIN" HERE UNDER THIS TAPESTRY JUST THE WAY I FOUND HIM!



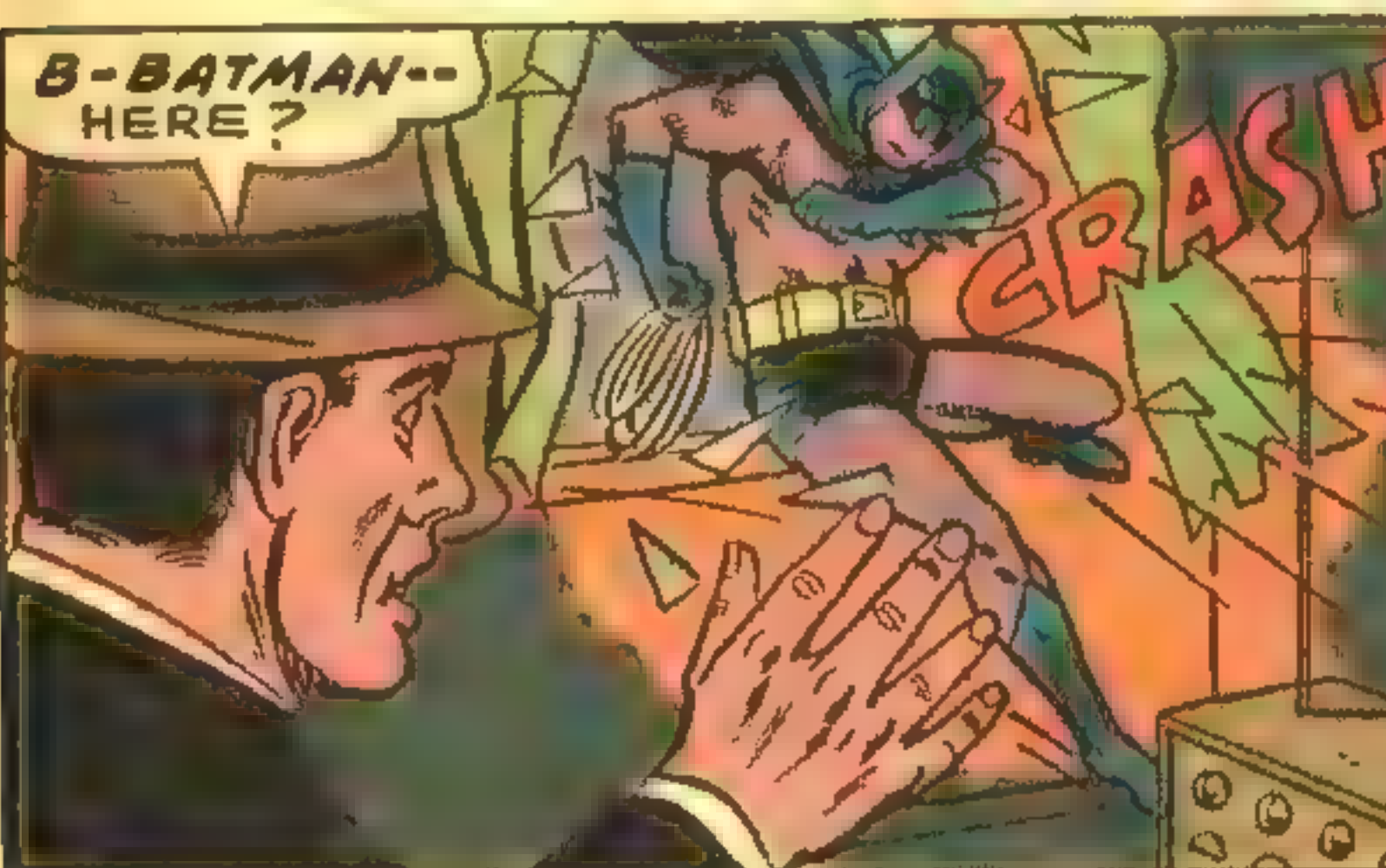
STEP THREE--USE HIS BUGGING DEVICE, ON WHICH I GOT A FIX WHILE DRIVING HIM BACK TO SOUTHLEY'S TO GUIDE ME TO HIS GANG'S HIDE-OUT!

ON THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF
GOTHAM
CITY,
SOME-
WHAT
LATER...



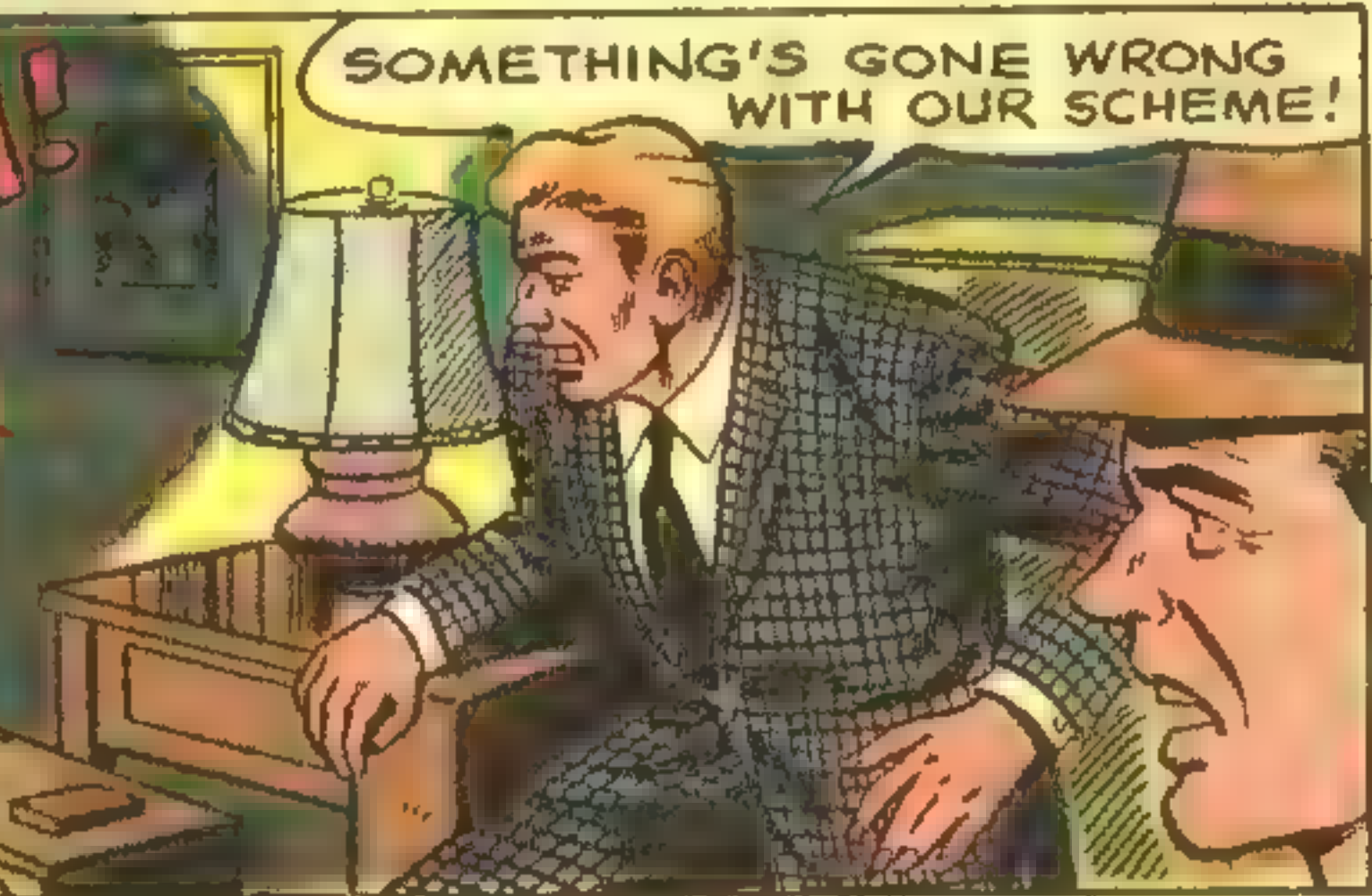
THERE'S THE HOUSE--AT
THE END OF A STREET!

STEP FOUR-- CRASH IN THERE--
CAPTURE THE CROOKS!

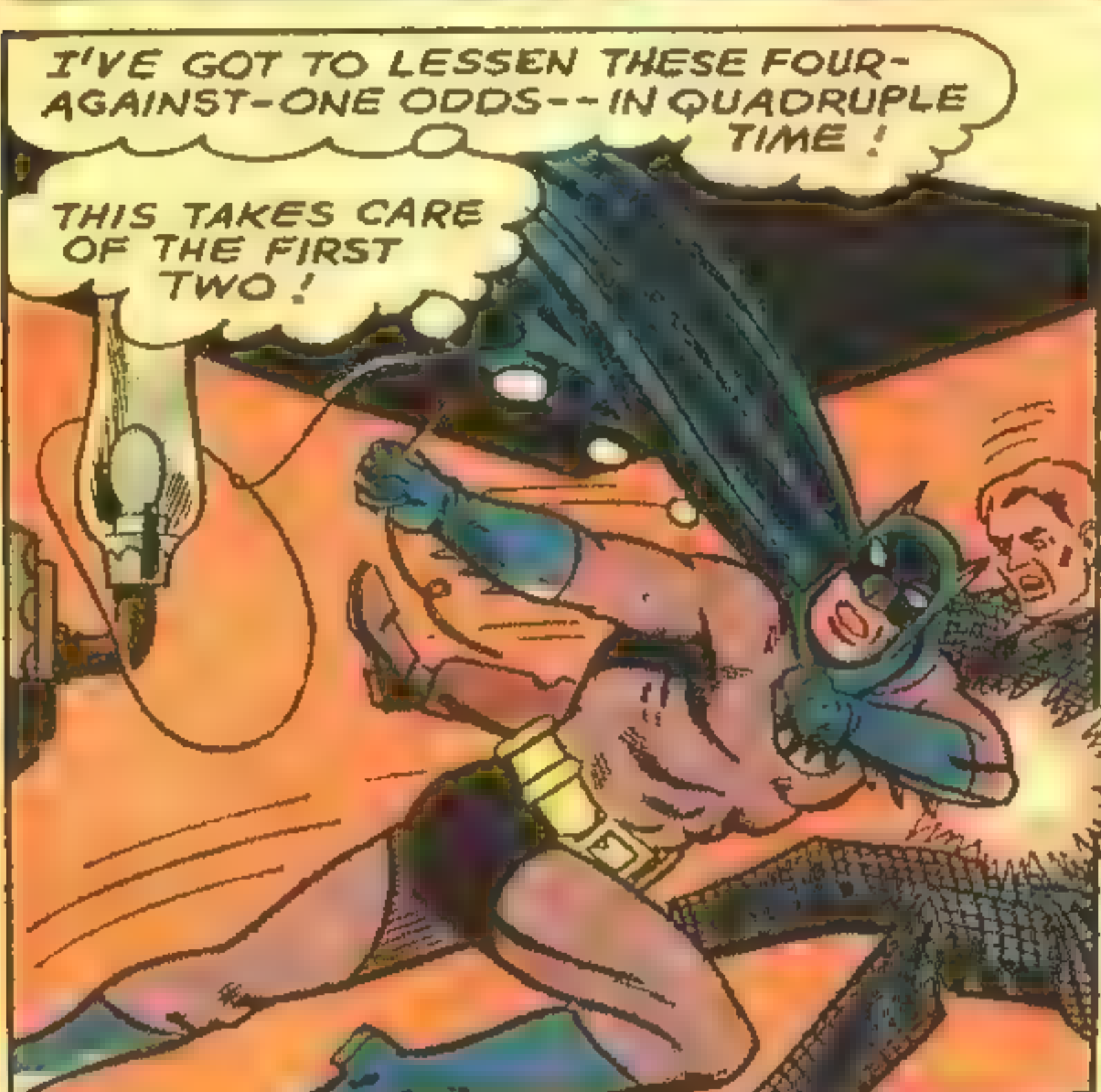


B-BATMAN--
HERE?

CRASH!



SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG
WITH OUR SCHEME!



I'VE GOT TO LESSEN THESE FOUR-
AGAINST-ONE ODDS--IN QUADRUPLE
TIME!

THIS TAKES CARE
OF THE FIRST
TWO!



A YANK TAUTENS THE BATROPE, BRING-
ING IT UP UNDER THE GUNS AIMED AT
HIM...

THAT DISARMS
THE OTHER TWO!

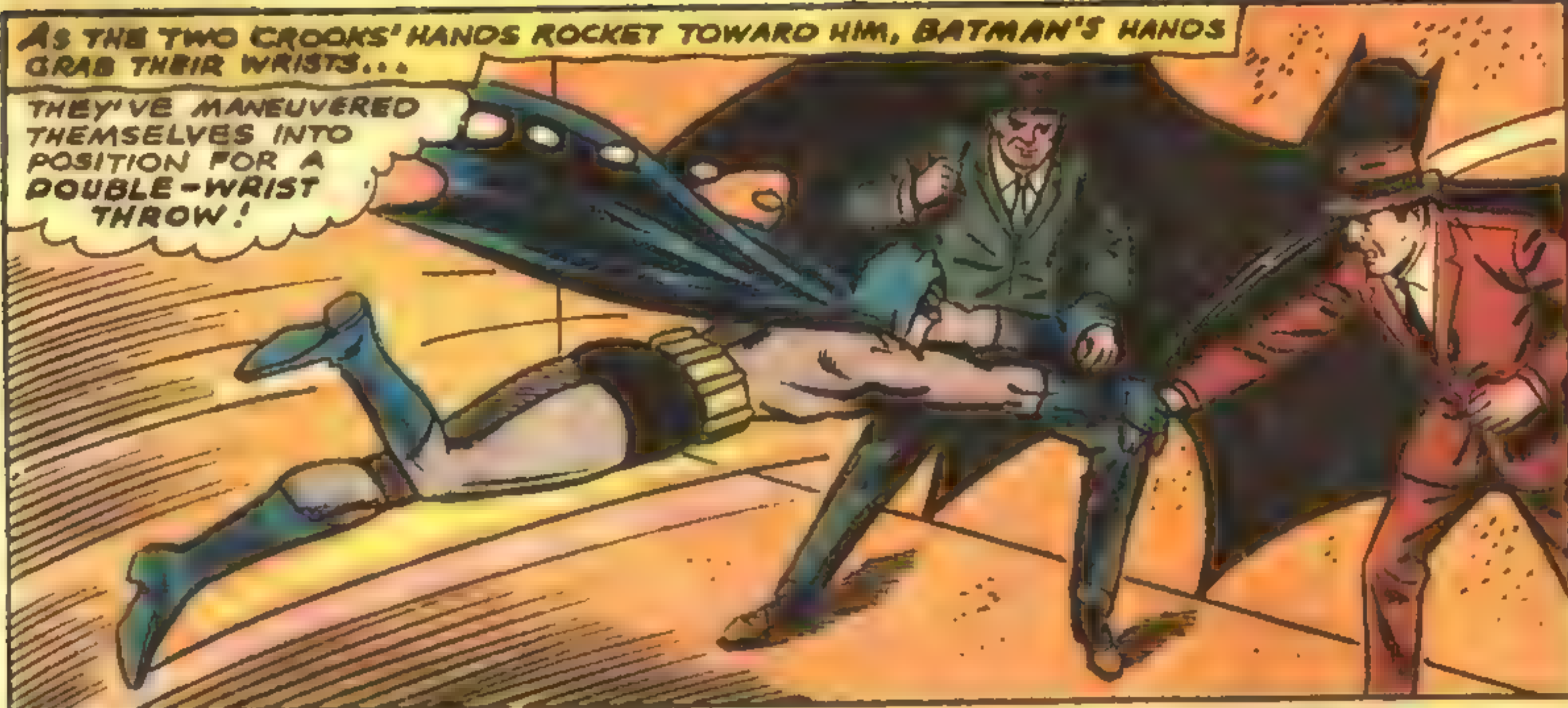


HERE HE
COMES!

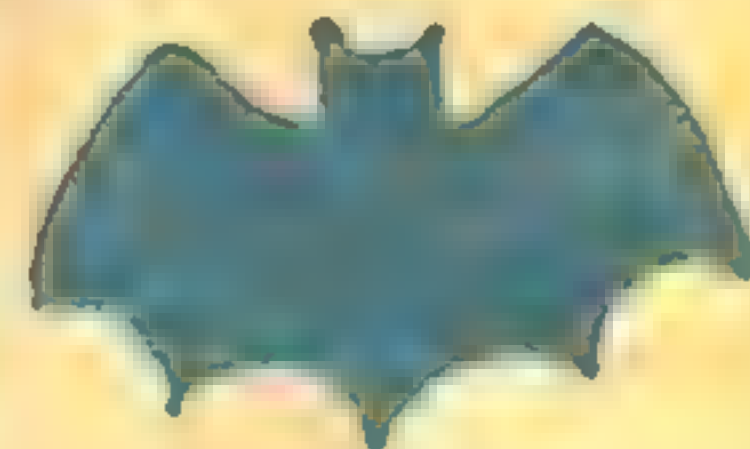
SOCK HIM--
BEFORE HE
CAN BRACE
HIMSELF!

AS THE TWO CROOKS' HANDS ROCKET TOWARD HIM, BATMAN'S HANDS GRAB THEIR WRISTS...

THEY'VE MANEUVERED THEMSELVES INTO POSITION FOR A DOUBLE-WRIST THROW!



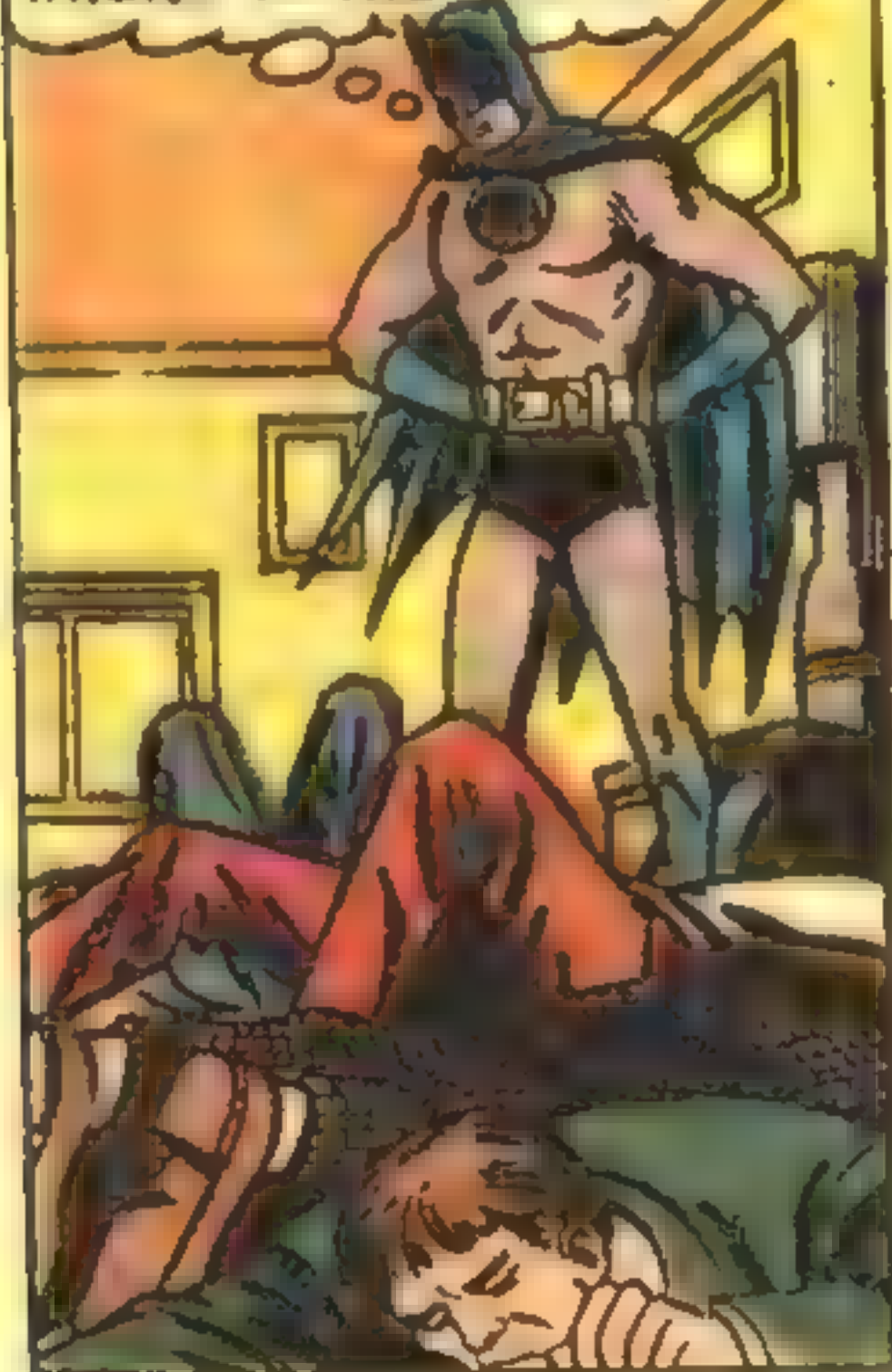
HIS FEET LAND-- HIS ARMS SHOOT BACK-- AND HE COMPLETES THE JUDO-TOSS...



I KNEW I HAD TO PROTECT THE SECRET OF MY DOUBLE IDENTITY--SO I GOT MY MAKE-UP KIT FROM THE UTILITY BELT--

STEP FIVE-- FIND AND RESCUE ROBIN!

HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE!



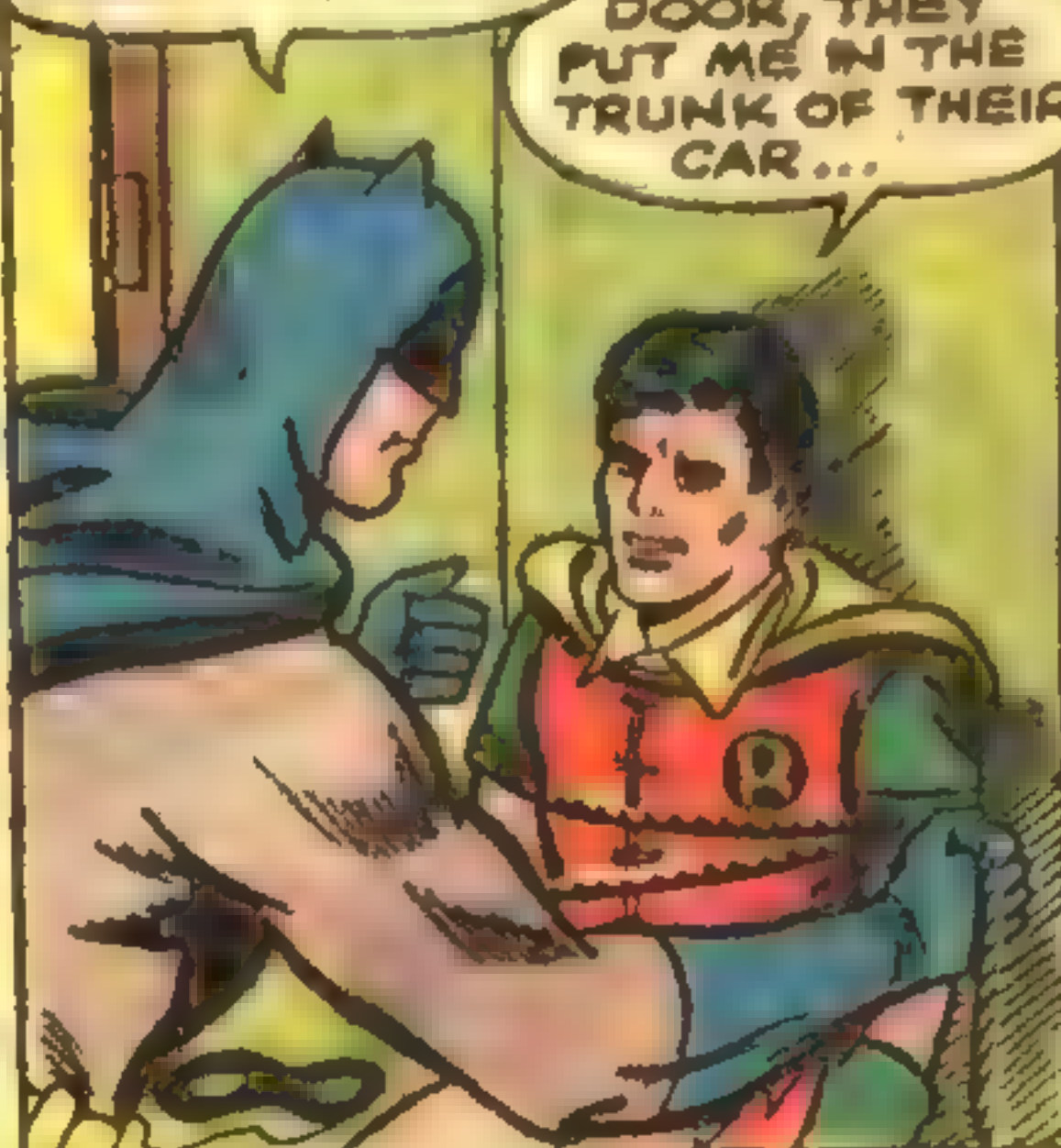
A BRIEF SEARCH OF THE HOUSE SOON REVEALS...

LEFT YOU HERE BOUND, GAGGED-- AND UNMASKED!

NOT SO'S YOU COULD NOTICE IT!

SO THEY FOUND OUT YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, TOO?

AFTER KNOCKING ME OUT AS I RAN IN THE REAR DOOR, THEY PUT ME IN THE TRUNK OF THEIR CAR...



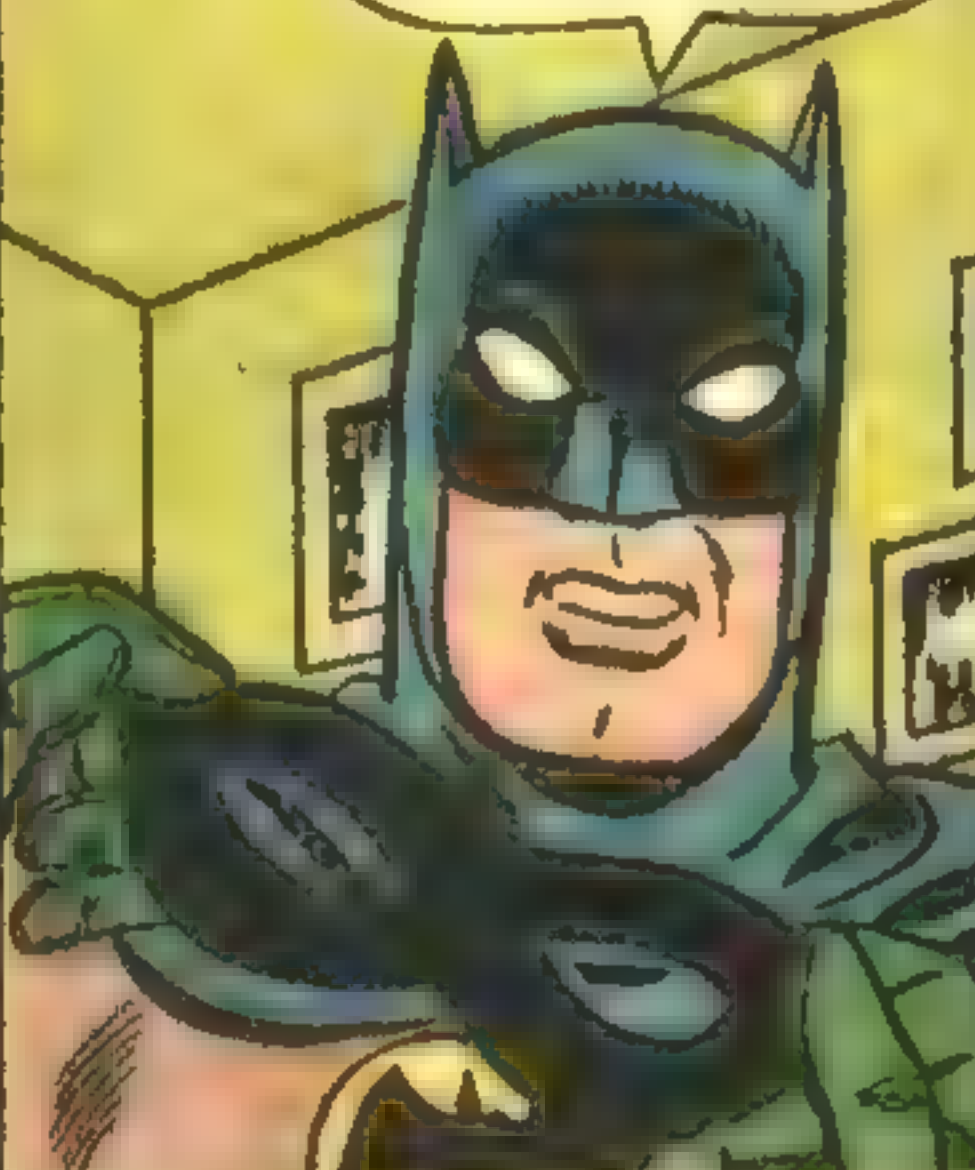
MADE MY EYES OVER-- ALTERED THE FACIAL FEATURES THAT THE MASK COVERS-- MAKING ME DIFFERENT ENOUGH THAN DICK GRAYSON!



BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, WE FELL VICTIMS TO A PLOT TO UNCOVER OUR SECRET IDENTITIES!

I'M AFRAID I WASN'T AS FORTUNATE AS YOU! THE ONE WHO MASQUERADED AS YOU KNOWS MY TRUE IDENTITY!

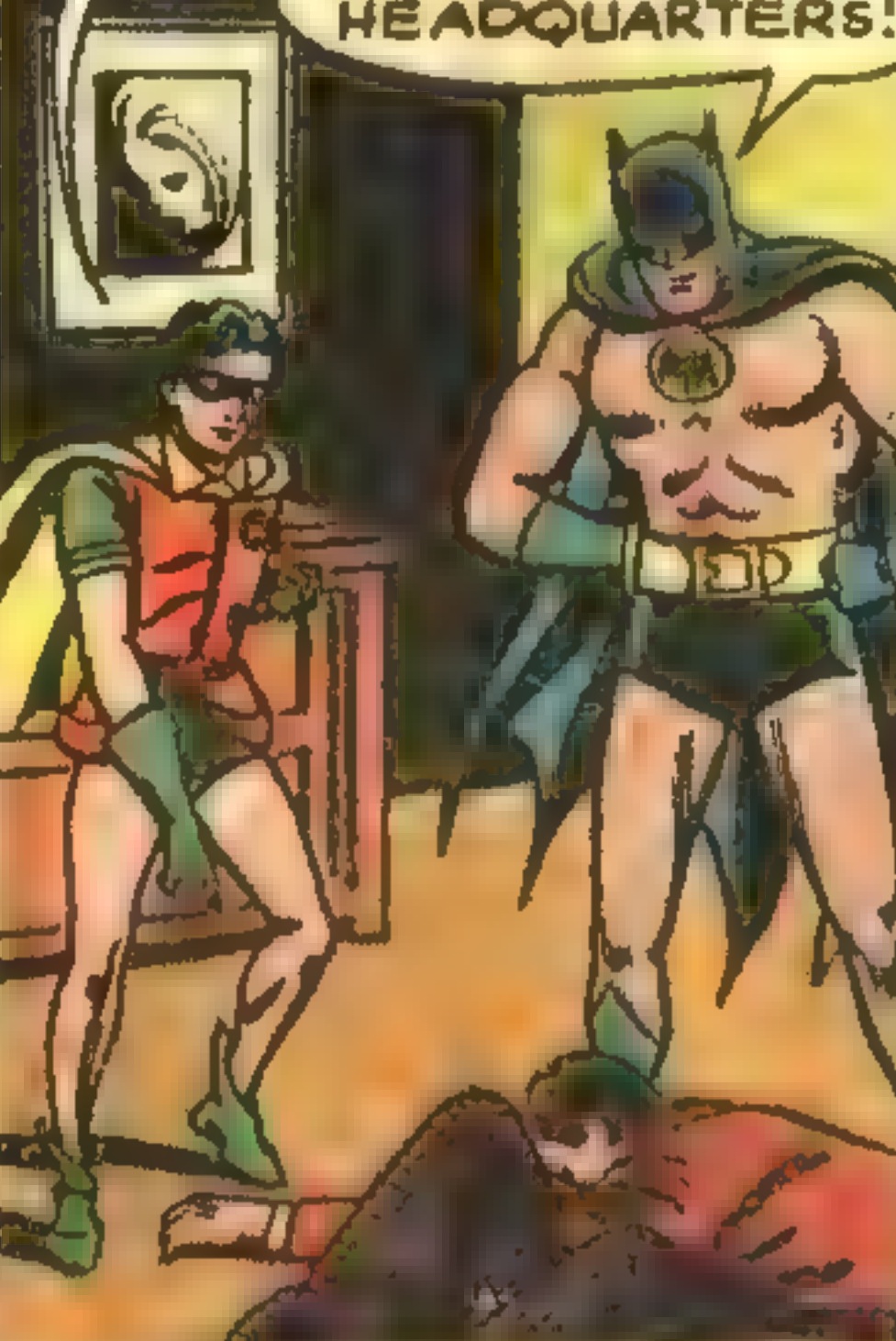
HOWEVER, I'M WORKING ON A SEVEN-STEP COUNTERPLAN TO CONVINCE HIM HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO BATMAN IS AFTER ALL!



YOUR PLAN SOUNDS GOOD, BATMAN! BUT ONLY THIS GANG CAN MAKE IT WORK!

STEP SIX REQUIRES US TO GO BACK TO SOUTHLEY'S-- AND ARREST THE PHONY BOY WONDER!

WHICH WE'LL DO-- AFTER WE DROP THESE CHARACTERS OFF AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

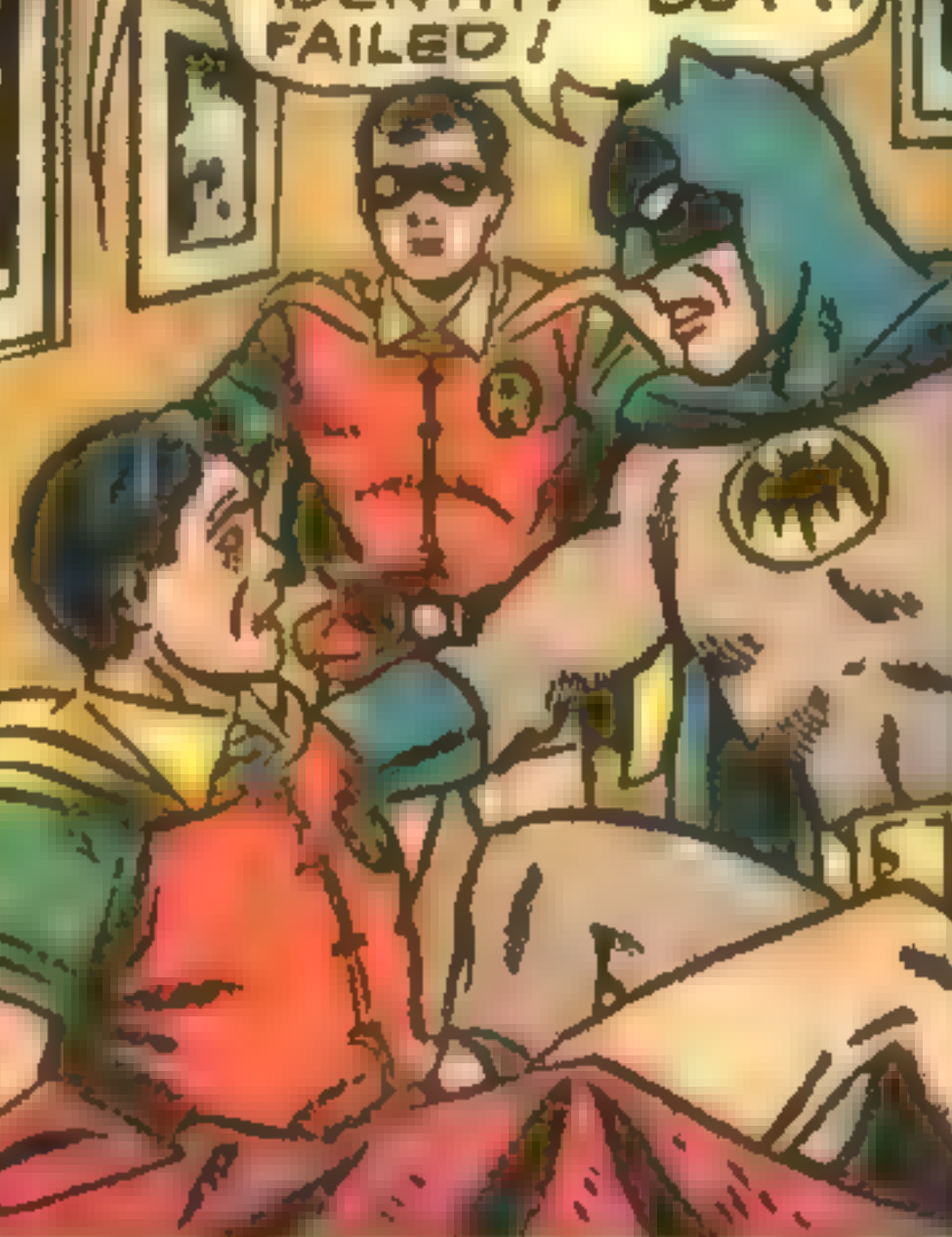


IN THE SOUTHLEY ART GALLERY AFTER BATMAN AROUSES THE FALSE ROBIN...

HUH? WHAT'M I DOING HERE? OH, YEAH, I REMEMBER NOW...

YOU'RE BRUCE WAYNE, BATMAN!

YOU'RE MISTAKEN-- WHOEVER YOU ARE! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR SCHEME TO LEARN ROBIN'S AND MY SECRET IDENTITY-- BUT IT FAILED!



YOUR CRONIES TALKED QUITE FREELY WHILE THE REAL ROBIN AND I WERE TAKING THEM TO THE POLICE!

YOU'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE YOUR PAL KNOCKED YOU OUT! IF YOU THINK I'M BRUCE WAYNE, YOU DREAMED IT!

YOU CAN'T KID ME! IT WAS TOO REAL TO BE A DREAM--

--AND I CAN PROVE IT! REMEMBER THE BUGGING DEVICE I HAVE ON ME? THE GANG WAS LISTENING IN ON OUR CONVERSATION ALL THE TIME!



AT THE GOTHAM POLICE STATION, A LITTLE LATER...

STEP SEVEN-- IS NOW IN OPERATION! THAT'S THE ONLY PHASE I HAVE NO CONTROL OF!

YOU HEARD ME IN THE BATCAVE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU HEARD ME SAY BATMAN WAS BRUCE WAYNE?

EDDIE-- THAT BUG YOU'RE WEARING DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND!



YOU *MUST* HAVE HEARD ME! THE BUG'S IN PERFECT WORKING ORDER-- I TESTED IT ON THE WAY TO JAIL!

SORRY, EDDIE! ALL WE GOT WAS DEAD SILENCE! WE'RE JUST FIVE MORE GUYS IN THE ARMY OF FAILURES THAT'S TRIED TO LEARN WHO **BATMAN** REALLY IS!

THEN IT MUST'VE BEEN A DREAM! BUT WHY, OF ALL PEOPLE, DID I DREAM **BATMAN** WAS **BRUCE WAYNE**?

OH, SURE! I SAW WAYNE'S PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT MORNING-- AND IT STUCK IN MY MIND!

NEARBY, WITHIN RANGE OF THE **FALSE ROBIN'S** VOICE...

I'M IN THE CLEAR, T **ROBIN!**

IT'S A GOOD THING WE INSTALLED ANTI-BUGGING DEVICES IN THE **BATCAVE** AND **BATMOBILE** AFTER OUR CLOSE CALL ON THAT LAST ADVENTURE WITH **BATGIRL**!

YES, THEY PREVENTED THE GANG FROM GETTING SO MUCH AS A **BEEP** FROM THAT FAKE **ROBIN'S** BUG!

10

END.

Bulletin No 3*
December 1967

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2

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

Having been a *Batman* fan for seven years, I feel that I should write and tell you what I think of your comic.

Taken all together, *Batman* is a pretty good magazine, with a few exceptions which I won't mention here.

During all my years of reading the letter page of *Batman*, I have come across many complaints. They are about everything from villains to oversized POWS and BLAMS. My complaint—yes, I *do* have one—is about your *story titles*!

Lately, it seems that your titles are getting more ridiculous with each issue. Take *Batman* 195 as an example: now, I ask you, what self-respecting thief would call himself "The Spark-Spangled See-Through Man", or for that matter, *Bag O' Bones*?

In my opinion, a good title is just as important as a good plot. I almost didn't read *Batman* 195 just because of the title.

After having suffered through such "gems" as "The Penguin Takes a Flyer—Into the Future" and "The Blockbuster Goes Bat-Mad", I felt it was time to do something when I saw "The Spark-Spangled See-Through Man!" (Was this one written on *Independence Day*?)

I think you'll be happy to know that after I had put aside my initial disgust at the title of 195 and gone on to read the story, I found that it was surprisingly good, even though that part about the radiation has been slightly overdone.

There was only one part that puzzled me. On page 13, panel 2, *Robin* says, "Like charges attract—opposite charges repel." Did you make a mistake, or have the laws of magnetism changed since I was in the fifth grade—I always thought it was just the opposite of what *Robin* stated.

Please don't ruin a good story with a ridiculous title. Give us more like the immortal "Death Knocks Three Times!" I know you can do it.

—Susan Hendrix, Cedertown, Ga.

(We agree—there's nothing like a swinging story title to set the reader off and going on a story! Now—all you have to do is reveal to us the sure-fire system for determining *beforehand* when a title will ignite in the reader a burning desire to read a story! Experience has taught us we could never expect to get 100% reader approval of a title—any more than we've ever had of a story! As for *Robin's* magnetic error, he obviously got his wires crossed!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Bag O' Bones in the September *Batman* was one villain with a fantastic potential and it's too bad that he will probably never be back. However, his appearance in "The Spark-Spangled See-Through Man" made the story a top-notch *Batman* thriller, with that touch of mystery and suspense that is so prevalent in *Batman* and *Detective* now. Although his name was a little too campy, his hang-up of not being able to use his power without shortening his life-span was an excellent plot twist. As to who twisted this plot, I venture a guess that the author of this story has betrayed himself by means of that very Fox-like title.

The art was another thing entirely. As usual, it was poor, but this issue's many skeleton-sketches were especially badly done. The *Batman* art should be dark, shadows should abound, and the atmosphere should be eerie and mysterious. I'd like to see *Batman's* ears lengthen,

his cape enlargen, his eyes slant, and have him look like the frightening, ghost-like avenger he was meant to be.

Being an avid fan of the pulp magazines, I came across a 1933 issue of *The Shadow*, in which the *Dark Avenger* battled a skeleton-like enemy, almost a replica of *Bag O' Bones*. However, he differed from *Batman's* adversary in that he was an actual skeleton, manipulated by a real criminal. I'll admit that *Bag O' Bones* had a much more scientific explanation for his weird appearance, but I like the earlier one better.

Before I forget, plaudits to the Infantino-Anderson team for their excellent covers, not only on *Batman*, but the many others also.

—Jim Faix, Bayonne, N.J.

(*Bag O' Bones* was an original creation in the mind of writer Gardner Fox—but it's happened before, and bound to happen again, that someone else would come up with a comparable conception. Another reader has a similar comment to offer in the next letter.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I've a hunch you've been reading the *Doom Patrol*, friend Editor. The terrific character known affectionately as "Bag O' Bones" bears a striking resemblance to Larry Trainor, alias *Negative Man*. 'Tis no coincidence, right? 'Salright. He was great. In fact, you should be commended for further developing the person Mr. Trainor originally portrayed. That was a story to equal the fantastic "Man Who Quit the Human Race", from *Batman* 165. I was astounded to find that the price Ned Creegan paid for his power was a day a second. I mean, they say nothing is worth your life, but I've never seen someone pay that price a second at a time! I was fed up with the unending run of alien villains you had in the old *Batman* stories. *Batman* 195, as well as 165, shows you indeed can give us a way-out plot that's also down-to-earth.

But I can't believe that "Boney" used up so much time. He said he had only a few years left. Well, let's start again. He was probably about 28 or 30 at the start of the story. Then he lost four years in his first *Bat*-fight. Okay, that clicks. Then there was a second fight in which he seemingly used up forty years of time—about four hours, if my math is correct (I'm a C mathstudent, so bear with me if I'm wrong). Now, back to the original topic, do you mean to tell us that he used up *four hours*? Let's see, his second *Bat*-fight couldn't have taken more than an hour—it seemed closer to forty minutes. Then, of course, he lost his antidote pills, and more had to be made up by the prof. But could those pills take three hours to make? The first time, it took only a minute or two. Thus my research (though possibly faulty) proves Ned should have a good 30 years left . . . he should live to see sixty!

—Gary Skinner, Columbus, Ohio

(The only time we're sure of in connection with "Boney's" life-span is the *time* he's doing in prison!—Editor)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB
KANE

HA-HA! THIS
IS THE END OF
THAT FAMOUS
ESCAPE
ARTIST,
ROBIN!

C'MON, ROBIN!
LET'S SEE YOU
GET AWAY
THIS TIME!

A Demand
Classic

JUST HOW SMART DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? CLEVER
ENOUGH, GAY, TO MATCH WITS WITH ROBIN? COULD
YOU HANDLE YOURSELF IN A TIGHT SPOT WITH ALL
THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF THE BOY WONDER?
WELL--HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT! SO--
SHARPEN UP THOSE BRAINS--PAY KEEN ATTENTION--
AS ROBIN LEADS YOU ON THE THRILL-LOADED ...

OPERATION "ESCAPE"!

ONE EVENING, IN THE HOME OF SOCIALITE
BRUCE WAYNE, HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON,
MAKES HASTY PREPARATIONS...

GOSH, I ALMOST FORGOT! I'M TO DE-
LIVER A LECTURE TONIGHT AT THE
GOTHAM POLICE COLLEGE. TIME
FOR ME TO CHANGE INTO ROBIN!

LATER, IN A CLASSROOM AT THE COLLEGE...

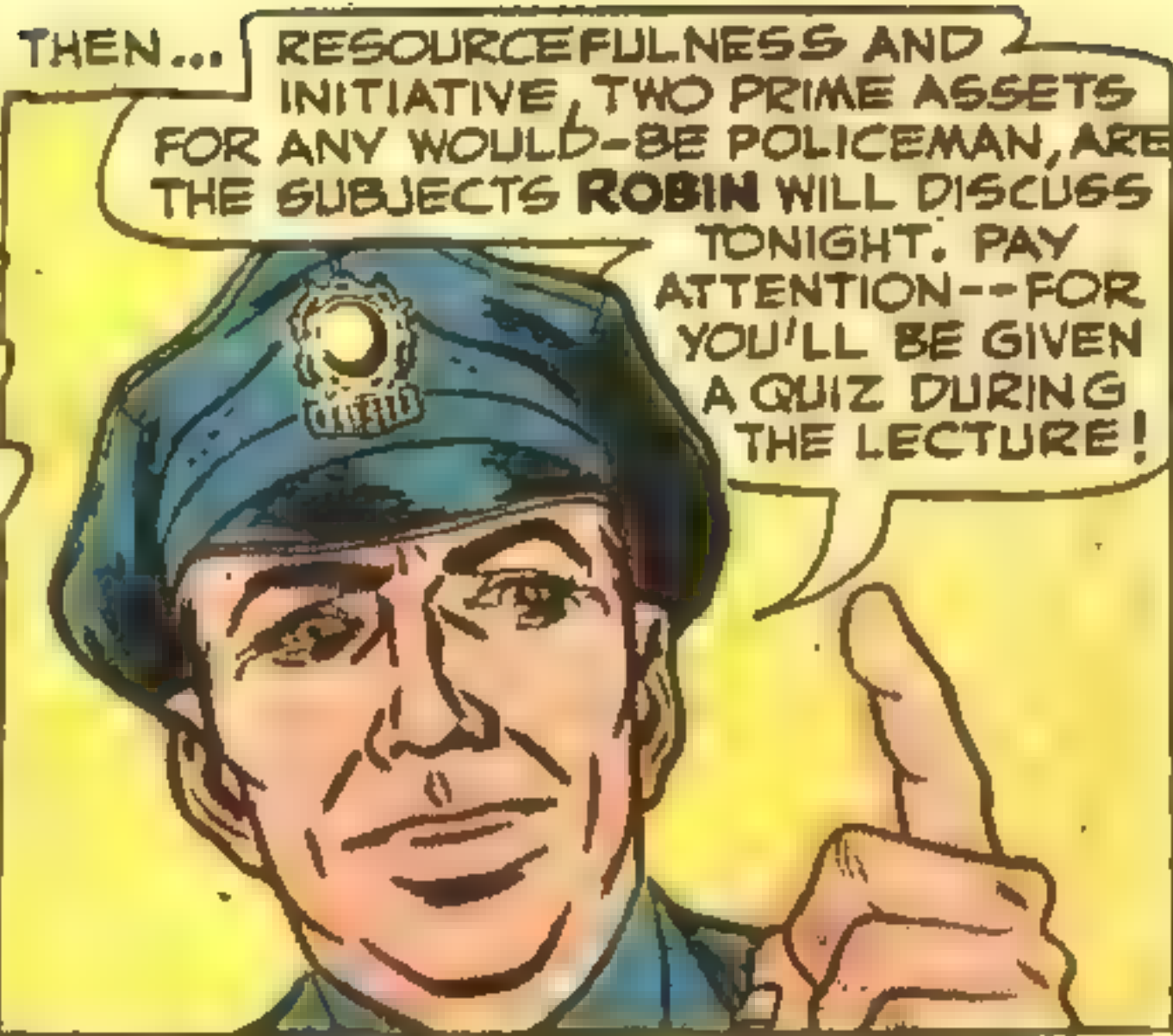
BOY--THEY SURE ARE THOROUGH IN
TRAINING YOU TO BE A POLICEMAN!
WHAT'S ON THE PROGRAM FOR TONIGHT?

ROBIN HAS BEEN
INVITED AS A
GUEST LEC-
TURER. WE'LL
SOON KNOW!



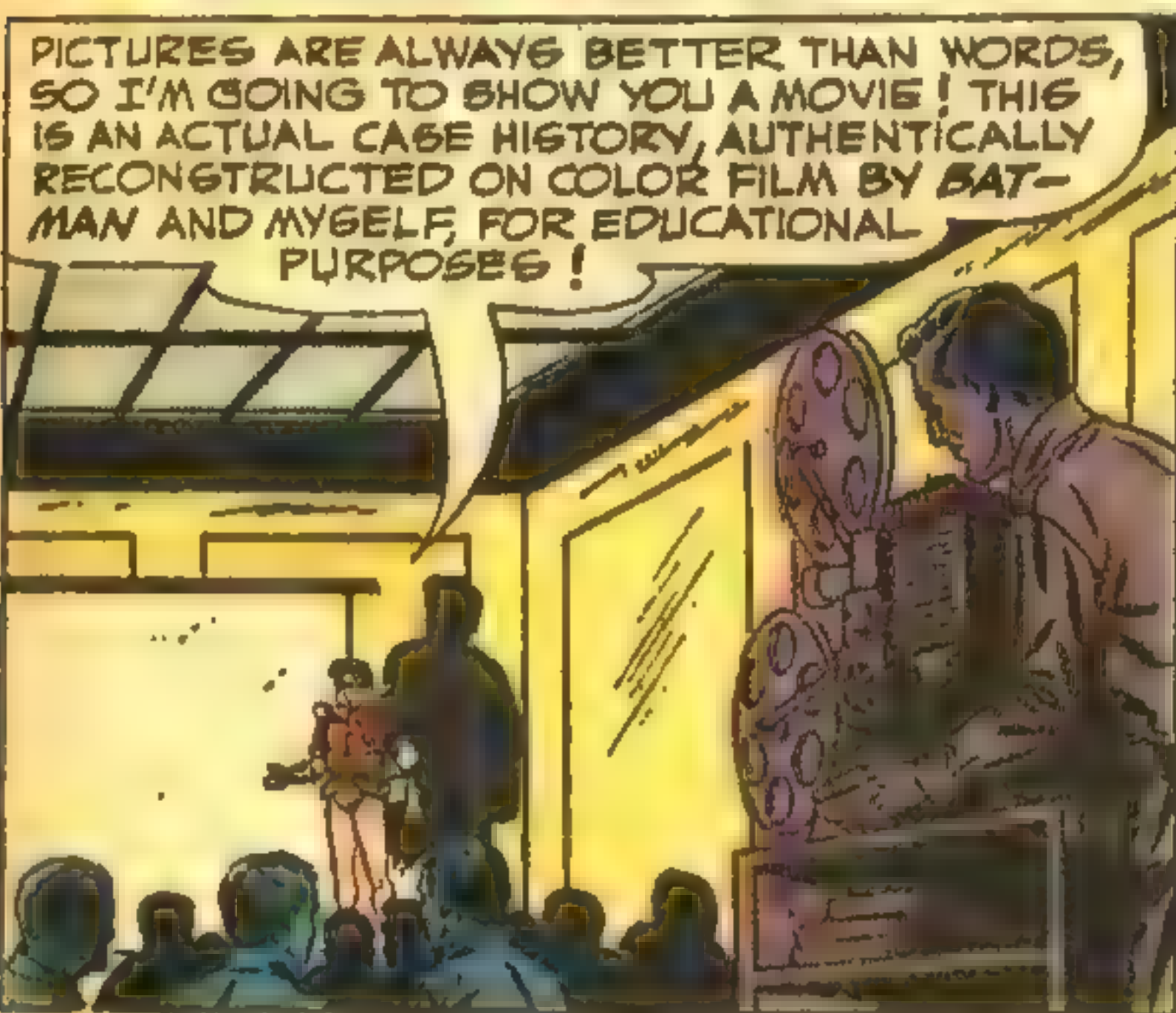
LOOK! HE'S BROUGHT ALONG A TENNIS RACKET, A GOLF BALL, A BASEBALL AND A BASEBALL SHOE! WHAT IN THE WORLD FOR??

YOU'VE GOT ME! IT'S CERTAINLY AN ODD COLLECTION FOR A CRIME LECTURE!

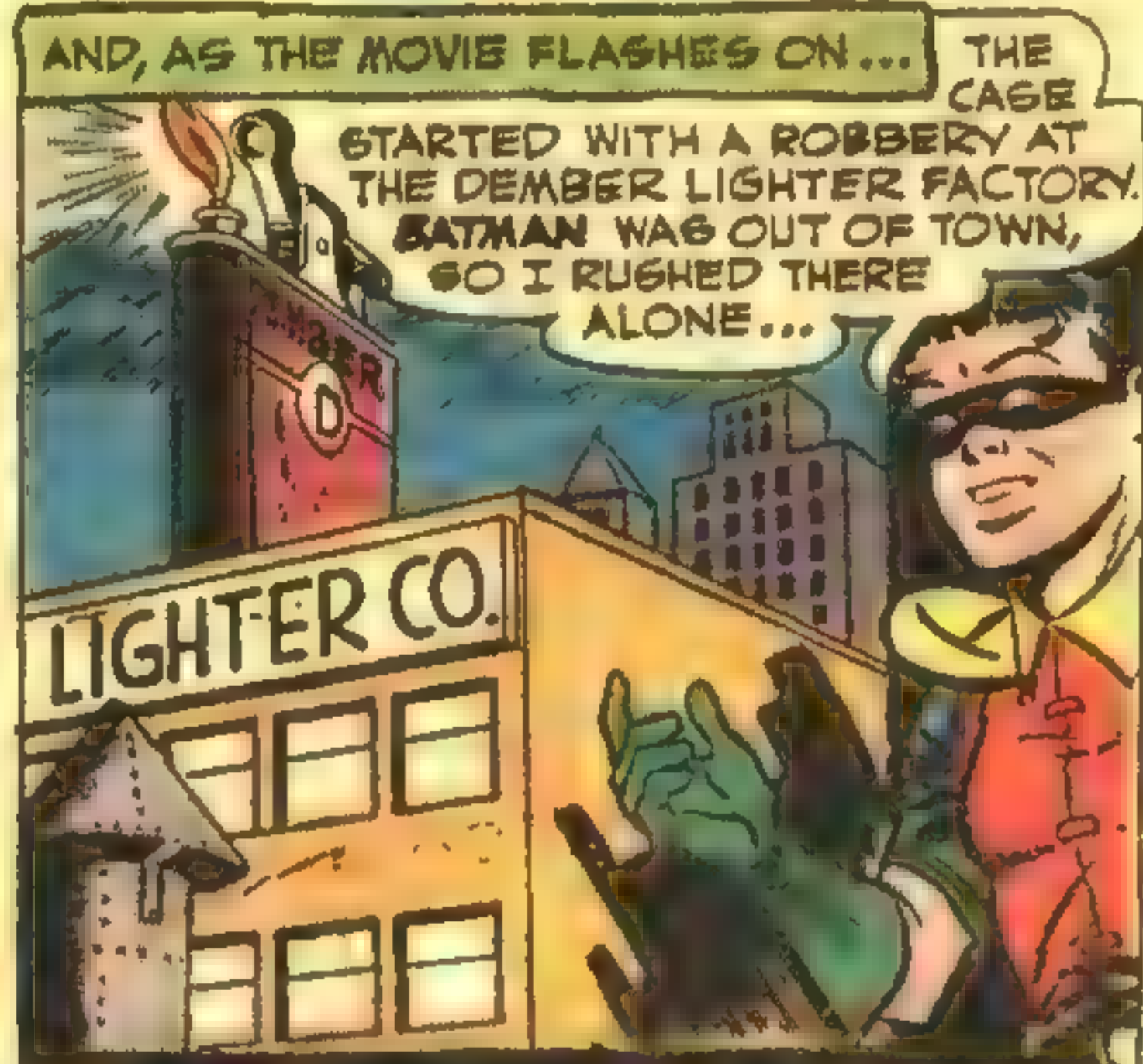


THEN...

RESOURCEFULNESS AND INITIATIVE, TWO PRIME ASSETS FOR ANY WOULD-BE POLICEMAN, ARE THE SUBJECTS **ROBIN** WILL DISCUSS TONIGHT. PAY ATTENTION--FOR YOU'LL BE GIVEN A QUIZ DURING THE LECTURE!



PICTURES ARE ALWAYS BETTER THAN WORDS, SO I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A MOVIE! THIS IS AN ACTUAL CASE HISTORY, AUTHENTICALLY RECONSTRUCTED ON COLOR FILM BY **BATMAN** AND MYSELF, FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES!



AND, AS THE MOVIE FLASHES ON...

THE CASE

STARTED WITH A ROBBERY AT THE DEMBER LIGHTER FACTORY. **BATMAN** WAS OUT OF TOWN, SO I RUSHED THERE ALONE...



"REACHED BEFORE THEY COULD MAKE GOOD THEIR ROBBERY, THE CROOKS SOUGHT ESCAPE ON THE ROOF OF THE FACTORY... BUT I WAS RIGHT AT THEIR HEELS..."

A TRICKY ADVERTISING DISPLAY... A LIGHTER THAT ACTUALLY CLICKS ON AND OFF! BUT I MUSTN'T LET IT DISTRACT ME FROM THE JOB AT HAND!

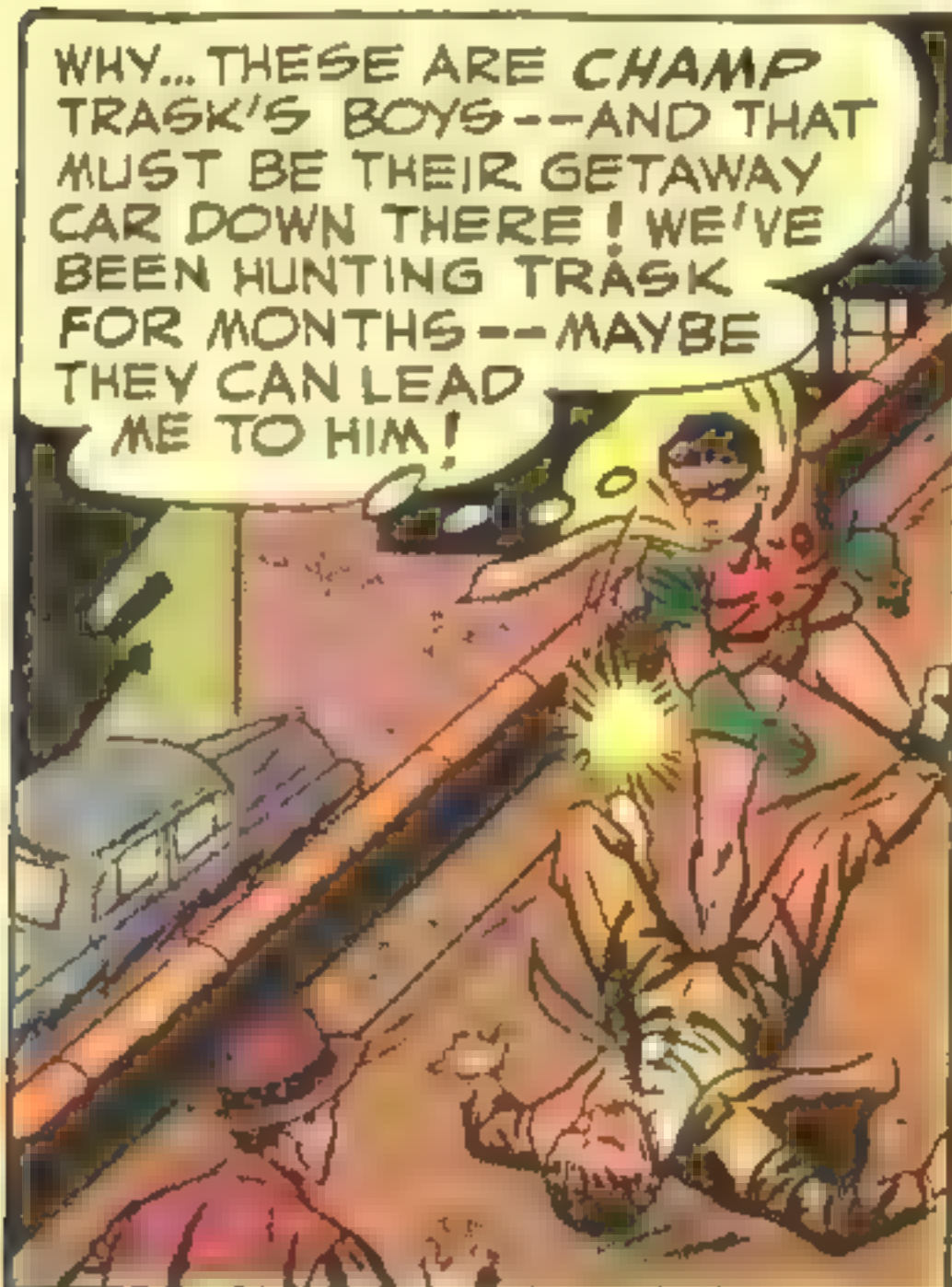


"AS YOU SEE, IT DEVELOPED INTO QUITE A BATTLE! TWICE, THAT LIGHTER ALMOST ENVELOPED ME!"

WOW...THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! I'D BETTER POLISH OFF THESE FELLOWS IN A HURRY!

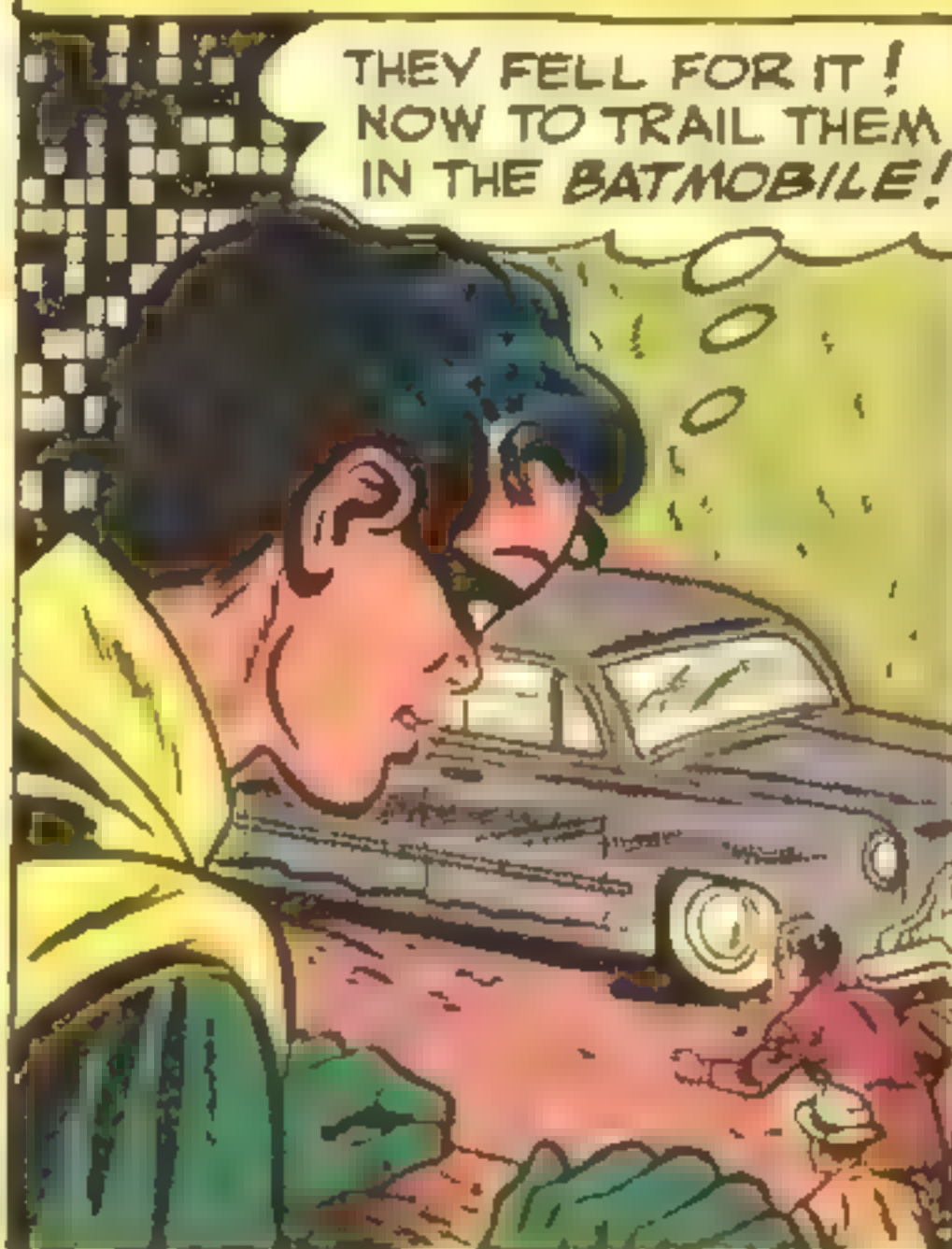
"BUT THEN, I SUDDENLY RECOGNIZED ONE OF MY ADVERSARIES... AND MY PLANS CHANGED ABRUPTLY."

WHY... THESE ARE CHAMP TRASK'S BOYS--AND THAT MUST BE THEIR GETAWAY CAR DOWN THERE! WE'VE BEEN HUNTING TRASK FOR MONTHS--MAYBE THEY CAN LEAD ME TO HIM!

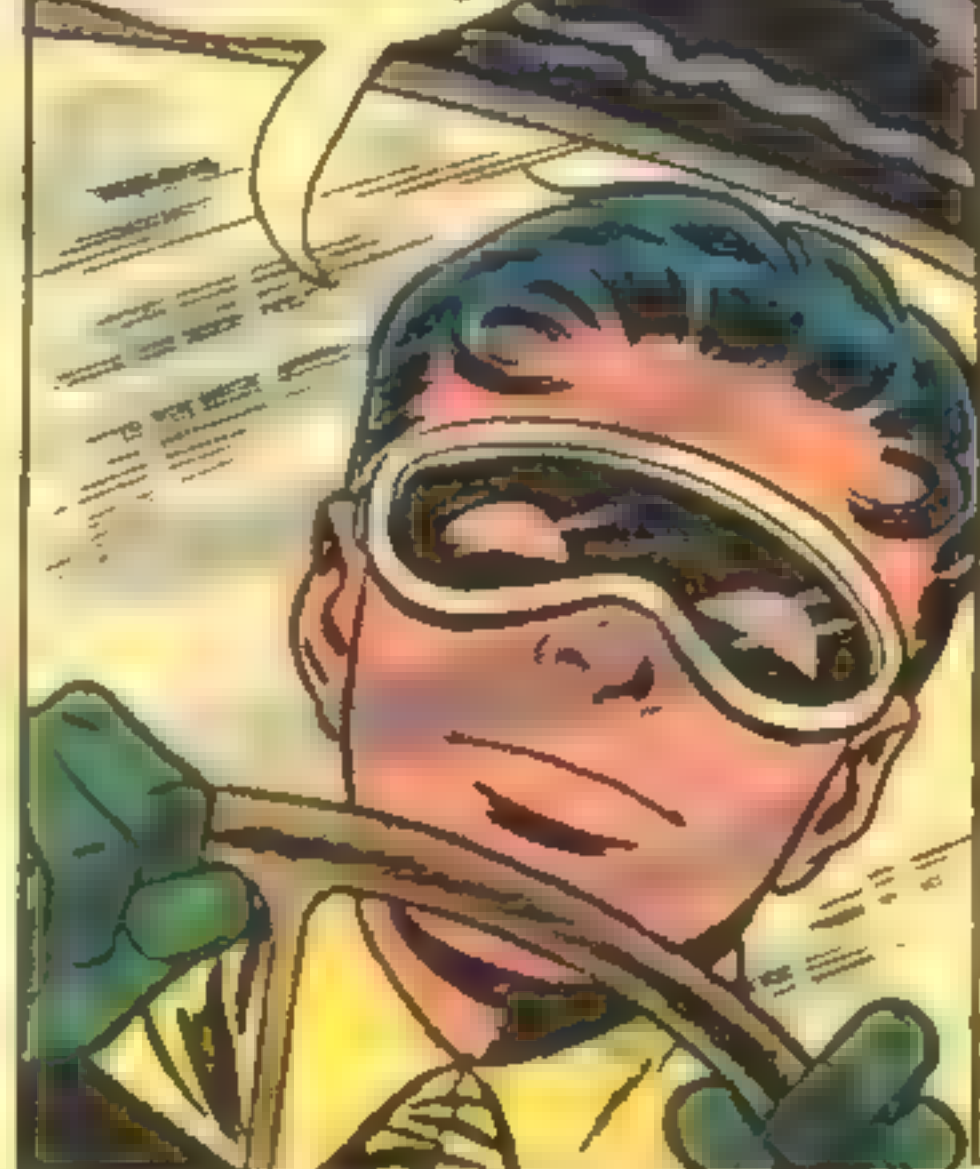


"I FEIGNED AN ACCIDENT AND SLIPPED OFF THE LIGHTER, GIVING THEM THE CHANCE TO GET AWAY--WHICH THEY TOOK!"

THEY FELL FOR IT! NOW TO TRAIL THEM IN THE BATMOBILE!



I CAN SEE THEM PLAIN AS DAY, BUT THEY'LL NEVER SPOT ME! SCORE ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR BATMAN'S SPECIAL INFRA-RED GOGGLES!



"WHEN THEY TURNED INTO AN OLD PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, I KNEW WE WERE NEARLY THERE. I PARKED THE BATMOBILE, WENT THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT..."

SO THIS IS TRASK'S HIDE-OUT! NOW FOR A SURPRISE PARTY ALL MY OWN!



"I BARGED RIGHT IN, CAUGHT THEM FLAT-FOOTED AS I HAD EXPECTED... BUT THEN--A BAD BREAK!"

LOOK! HE SLIPPED ON THAT WET SPOT-- GRAB HIM!



"IN THE NEXT MOMENT, I WAS A PRISONER-PRISONER OF A CROOK WHO FANCIED HIMSELF AN ATHLETE AND WHO PRIDED HIMSELF ON HIS CONDITION..!"

C'MON, CHAMP! LET'S UNMASK HIM NOW, AND KNOCK HIM OFF. HE'S BEEN PLENTY OF TROUBLE!

NO! I GOT AN HOUR TO PAY OFF LEFTY KAISER THE TEN GRAND I OWE HIM! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HEIST IT AT THE FACTORY-- BUT YOU DIDN'T! ROBIN'LL KEEP! WE GOTTA GET THAT DOUGH FIRST!



"THEY TOOK AWAY MY UTILITY BELT, LED ME INTO A SMALL ROOM. SUDDENLY, THE FLOOR FELL AWAY FROM UNDER ME, AND I FELL DOWN INTO A DUNGEON..."

CHAMP--WHAT'S IN THAT BAG DOWN THERE? KIN HE USE IT TO ESCAPE??

NAH! JUST SOME OLD SPORTS EQUIPMENT! DON'T WORRY-- WHEN I LET THIS TRAP-DOOR SLAM UP, THERE'S NO WAY FOR ROBIN TO GET OUT!

"THE TRAP DOOR SLAMMED... AND THERE I WAS. IT WOULD'VE BEEN SENSELESS TO TRY TO SCALE THE WALLS--THEY WERE SLICK AS MARBLE..."

IF I COULD ONLY CLIMB A WALL AND GRAB THAT LOOP-- THAT WOULD PULL THE TRAP-DOOR DOWN! BUT I CAN'T CLIMB HERE!

"IN DESPERATION, I TURNED TO THE BAG OF EQUIPMENT ON THE FLOOR..."

JUST AN OLD GOLF BALL, AN OLD BASEBALL, THE UNSTRUNG FRAME OF AN OLD TENNIS RACKET--AND ONE BASEBALL SHOE! SOME COLLECTION!

THAT WAS MY PROBLEM--HOW TO GET OUT OF THAT DUNGEON! AND NOW THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, TOO! ALL RIGHT... TURN OFF THE PROJECTOR, PLEASE!

A GOLF BALL, A BASEBALL, A TENNIS RACKET FRAME AND A BASEBALL SHOE! THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THAT DUNGEON! HOW DO YOU DO IT?

SINCE SPEED WOULD BE OF THE ESSENCE, YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY TEN MINUTES TO TURN IN YOUR ANSWERS.

ALL RIGHT-- YOU CAN PLAY, TOO!

YOU'VE SEEN ALL THE CLUES-- YOU KNOW THE RULES!

ALLOW YOURSELF TEN MINUTES-- THEN TURN THE PAGE FOR THE EXCITING ANSWER!

TEN MINUTES HAVING PASSED, ROBIN IS READY TO RESUME HIS LECTURE ...



ALL RIGHT! WATCH CLOSELY AND YOU'LL SEE HOW IT WAS DONE!

"THE FIRST THING I DID WAS TO BREAK THE TOP HALF OF THE TENNIS RACKET FRAME!"



HMMM! A LITTLE ROUGH, PERHAPS, BUT IT WILL DO!

"NEXT, USING ONE OF THE SPIKES OF THE BASEBALL SHOE, I SLASHED THE COVER OFF THE GOLF BALL ..."



NOW TO UNRAVEL THIS RUBBER WINDING OFF THE GOLF BALL!

"**I** UNWOUND ALL THE RUBBER, THEN BRAIDED IT INTO A SHORT BUT STRONG RUBBER CORD, WHICH I ATTACHED TO MY TENNIS RACKET FRAME..."



NOT A BAD SLINGSHOT, IF I SAY SO MYSELF!

"NOW I NEEDED AMMUNITION. THAT'S WHEN I REACHED FOR THE BASEBALL SHOE ..."



ONE OF THESE SPIKES, REMOVED FROM THE SHOE, OUGHT TO BE JUST WHAT I NEED!

"NEXT, I TORE THE COVER OFF THE BASEBALL AND CAREFULLY UNWOUND THE TIGHT YARN UNDERNEATH. I TIED ONE END OF A LONG PIECE OF YARN TO THE SPIKE--AND NOW I WAS READY!"

ROBIN'S SLINGSHOT.



"I AIMED MY SPIKE FOR THAT LOOP IN THE TRAP-DOOR... AND AFTER A FEW MISSES, I SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING IT THROUGH!"

NOW I'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE YARN FROM THE BASEBALL, TO FASHION A STRONG CORD! I'LL PULL IT THROUGH THE LOOP WITH THIS STRING OF YARN, AND USE IT TO PULL DOWN THE TRAP-DOOR AND HOIST MYSELF OUT!

THAT'S IT! WHEN CHAMP AND HIS MEN RETURNED, I WAS READY FOR THEM WITH ANOTHER SURPRISE ATTACK... AND THIS TIME, I DIDN'T MISS! TODAY, THEY'RE ALL IN JAIL, SERVING LONG TERMS!

ONCE I GET TO THAT TRAP-DOOR, I CAN SWING MYSELF UP THE REST OF THE WAY!

LATER...

WELL, JOE... DID YOU HAVE THE ANSWER? I DIDN'T!

HECK, NO! NO WONDER THERE'S ONLY ONE ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

THE END

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DC's answer
to Dickens'
Christmas
Carol...
THE TIT'S
SWINGIN'
CHRISTMAS CAROL!
NOW ON SALE!

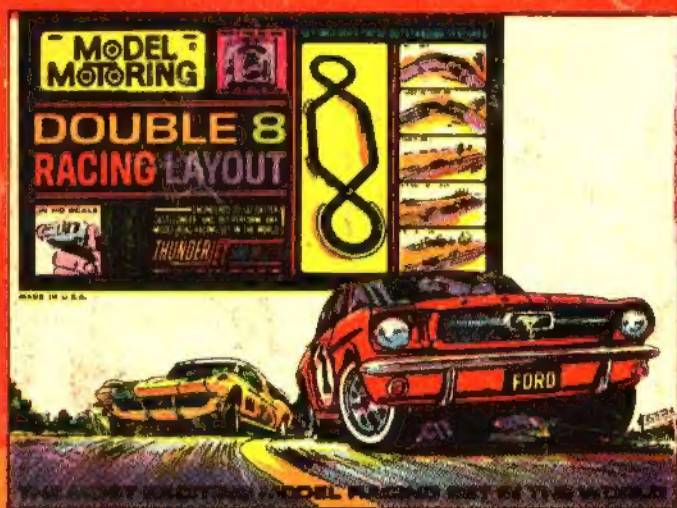


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